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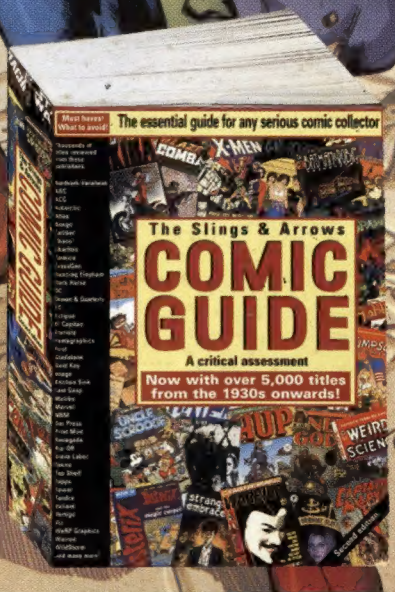
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A Quality Communications magazine

#164 OCTOBER 2003

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COVER: Artists Bryan Hitch and Paul Neary assemble the entire line of Ultimates heroes for action as Marvel launches the fourth title in the company's 21st century remodelling of its classic superheroes... **The Ultimate Fantastic Four.** Full story on page 5.

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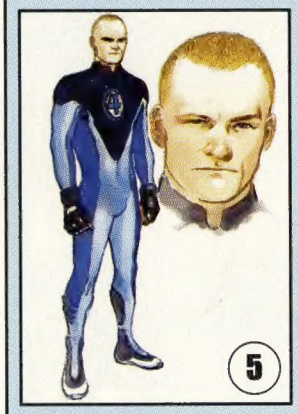

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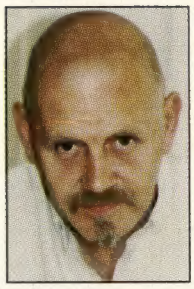
Sez Dez



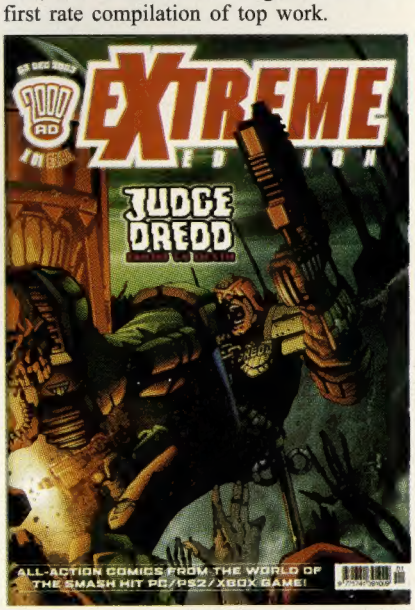
Editorial
Dez Skinn

You could be forgiven for accusing me of running out of salient points to make here and allowing this column to degenerate into hyperbole, if you didn't know me.

Far from the case. Sadly, there has been little to praise in the UK comics industry of late, so it's quite amazing that, following my celebration of the launch of **Striker** two months ago, I'm title-dropping again this issue.

Rebellion has had a pretty bumpy ride of late. Instead of the finished product, an early beta version of its much-hyped *Dredd Vs Death* computer game was accidentally sent to the trade for review, resulting in less than favourable comments. The company's attack on the US comics market has passed virtually unnoticed, being made up of only one monthly comic and that featuring a 4-issue reprint of a little-known strip (13) by less than top creators, presented in an umbrella title that was universally ridiculed the last time it was published (**2000 AD Showcase**).

That said, Rebellion's latest UK launch is a veritable tour-de-force. **2000 AD Extreme Edition** may sound like another in the old Egmont/Fleetway mold of recycling, and in some ways it is exactly that. But, while its weekly parent often appears embarassed to cover namedrop its star turn, this title celebrates Judge Dredd in a first rate compilation of top work.



Greg Staples shines as the star of the show in this 116 page glossy extravaganza. A quarterly add-on to the Rebellion line of titles, at £2.99 it's an excellent standalone, great value and deserves to succeed.

***Comics International** editor Dez Skinn's career in the industry spans 30 years. Titles he has created include **Doctor Who Weekly**, **House of Hammer**, **Hulk Comic**, **Starburst** and **Warrior**. Ex-editorial director of Marvel UK œ where his Stan Lee-coined Sez Dez column had a monthly audience of over 500,000 œ he has also edited titles including **Buster**, **Conan**, **MAD**, **Star Wars Weekly**, **2000 AD Presents**, **Rogue Trooper** and **Spider-Man** and won over 20 Eagle Awards. His co-created **V for Vendetta** is still optioned to Warner Bros.*

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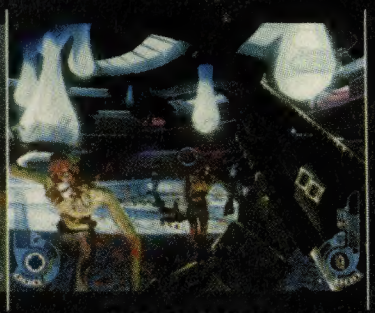

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Ultimate writers team up to revamp Marvel's first family

*Above: The cover art for **Ultimate Fantastic Four** is by Bryan Hitch, who has redesigned all the members of Marvel's first family including Ben Grimm* [see page 3].

Brian Michael Bendis and Mark Millar join artist Adam Kubert to reinterpret Fantastic Four for 21st century

MARVEL is continuing its cautious reinvention of its core heroes with the Fantastic Four set to follow its first three successful revamps.

Lined up to give the heroes that launched Marvel's Silver Age a 21st century make-over are Brian Michael Bendis – who already writes **Ultimate Spider-Man** and **Ultimate X-Men** – and **The Ultimates** writer Mark Millar.

"Our plan is to play to our own strengths with me initially handling plots and ideas and Brian focusing on dialogue and characterisation," said Millar, who wrote **Ultimate X-Men** before handing it over to Bendis.

Keeping it well and truly in the Ultimate family, joining them on the new title is Adam Kubert, who previously drew **Ultimate X-Men**.

Younger FF

"Reed, Sue, Ben, and Johnny are such brilliant characters that there's absolutely no need to change anything about them," Millar stated. "In fact, it would be sacrilegious, because the personalities of the four main players are so well-defined and so linked to their visual and abilities that only a lunatic would feel they could improve upon them.

"What's different here is that we've made everyone a little younger. They're much younger than the FF we saw in the '60s, but that all ties in with the new concept we're introducing – and, now that we're working on it, we feel it was a wise decision."

Lee and Kirby

"The idea behind the Ultimate line is to do what Stan and Jack would do with these characters in 2003, and that's really where this thinking came from," he explained.

"Yes, they will be younger than they are in the classic version," Bendis added, "but for a reason – and that will be explained in the first few pages of issue one. Their relationship will be very similar to the original. This concept wasn't broken, it was just begging for a modern adaptation, à la the other Ultimate books."

Explaining that the series is not simply a contemporary retelling of classic Lee and Kirby stories, Millar said, "It's probably a little soon to get deeply involved in the plot points of the book, but this is essentially a reworking from the ground up. The old FF still exist in the Marvel Universe. This is really a 21st century interpretation of the concept, and we intend to take a fresh look at a lot of old concepts at the same time as we're introducing all the new ones."

***Ultimate Fantastic Four* #1, priced $2.25, ships on December 31.**

Ultimate risk pays dividends for Marvel

POSSIBLY learning from the mistake DC made in 1985 with its multiverse simplifying **Crisis on Infinite Earths**, when Marvel decided that 40 years of continuity could be putting off potential new readers, it took a radical approach to the problem.

Rather than risk alienating long-term fans by eradicating the history they loved œ as DC had done with **Crisis**œ Marvel chose to build another, more modern version of its superhero universe, one that would be analogous to but separate from the original.

The plan was not without risk. The existence of two Marvel Universes in the marketplace could lead to audience confusion and potenital loss of sales from existing titles as the readership divided itself between the two.

Chart toppers

But not only did **Ultimate Spider-Man** attract new readers when it was launched by Brian Michael Bendis and artist Mark Bagley in 2000, it also found favour with existing fans, who did not drop the original titles for the new one.

The series *[see art, right]* leapt in the Top 10 on Diamond's sales charts as did Mark Millar and Adam Kubert's **Ultimate X-Men** in 2001 and **The Ultimates** by Millar and Bryan Hitch when it followed in 2002.

Perennial hits for Marvel, all three titles continue to hog top spots on the chart. Only 2001's **Ultimate Team-Up** œ cancelled after 16 issues œ mars the Ultimate record but **Ultimate Fantastic Four** *[see main story]* should maintain the winning streak.

Danger Girl team gambles on Vegas

Above: Phil Noto's cover art for Cliffhanger's 48-page ***Danger Girl: Viva Las Danger*** *one-shot.*

ARTIST Phil Noto is back working with Andy Hartnell and J Scott Campbell as the **Danger Girl** creators prepare to drop their band of agents on another unsuspecting American vacation spot.

This time the **Hawaiian Punch** crew are sending Abbey Chase, Sidney Savage and Silicon Valerie to Las Vegas for a little R&R. But things do not go according to plan when the gambling mecca becomes the target of a hostile takeover as revealed in Cliffhanger's **Viva Las Danger**, which ships on November 12, priced $4.95.

Educational comic leads to new X-Man

FORMER **Uncanny X-Men** writer Joe Casey has teamed up with one-time **New X-Men** artist John Paul Leon on an educational one-shot for the Starbright Foundation.

To be distributed free to hospitals, burn centres, schools, etc by Starbright, a non-profit organisation set up to develop projects that empower seriously ill children to combat the medical and emotional challenges they face on a daily basis, **X-Men in Life Lessons** is intended to help children with serious burns come to terms with their injuries.

Available now in English or Spanish, the comic introduces T-Ray, who is severely burned during his X-Men training. It is hoped readers will identify with his struggle to cope with disfigurement.

War comes to CrossGen

AFTER just four years in existence, CrossGen appears ready to clean house with its own version of **Crisis on Infinite Earths**.

However, where DC used its 1985 12-parter to strip away over 40 years of allegedly confusing continuity, CrossGen seems to have created **The War** as a means to rationalise its line, pruning unsuccessful titles and setting things up for new ones.

"We're going to pay off the storyline we've been building toward with an event that really will change the CrossGen Universe forever," claimed Ron Marz, writer of a number of CrossGen titles.

"Characters will die, entire worlds will be destroyed. And that's only part one of the plan," he added.

Set to launch next spring, the four-issue series pits all the CrossGen heroes against the forces of the Negation Universe. It is pencilled by George Pérez *[see promo art, above]*; **JSA**'s Leonard Kirk is to cover for him on **Solus**.

Novel hero breaks out for own anthology title

A FICTITIOUS Golden Age comicbook hero is escaping the pages of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel that introduced him to become a real four colour star.

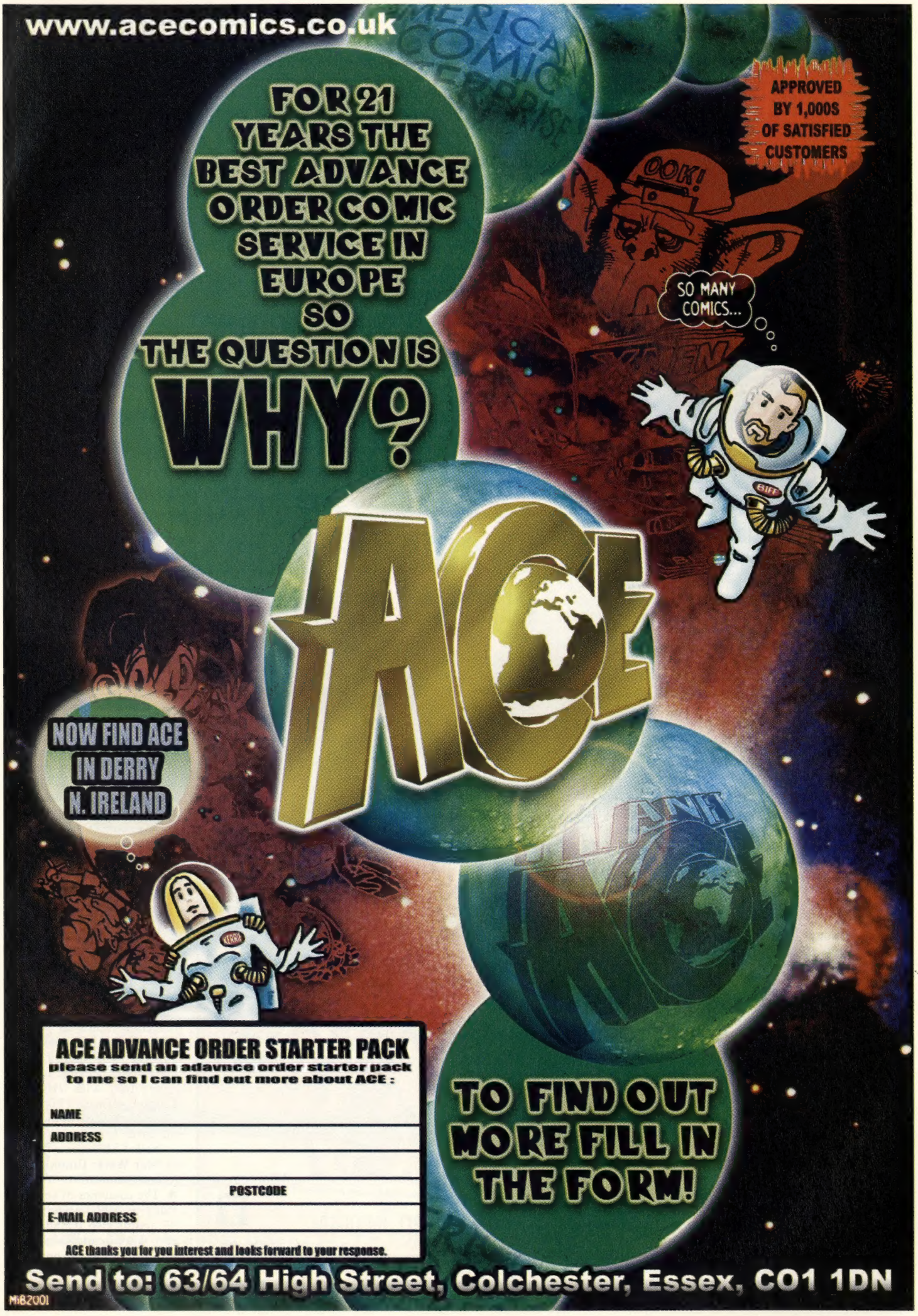
Ostensibly created by Joe Kavalier and Sam Clay – the fictional protagonists of **The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay**, Michael Chabon's 2001 account of two 1940s comics creators – the Escapist is to feature in his own 80-page quarterly Dark Horse anthology.

The Master of Elusion, as he is known, operates from a secret headquarters beneath the Empire Theater. From there he and his crack team of associates roam the world performing amazing feats of magic and coming to the aid of the oppressed.

A variety of writers and artists are being lined up to contribute to **The Escapist**, which chronicles the hero's adventures from the 1940s through to modern times. The first issue includes an origin story written by Chabon – whose first comics work is to be **JSA: All Stars** #7 – and drawn by Eric Wight *[see cover art, right]*.

The cumbersomely-titled

Michael Chabon Presents... The Amazing Adventures of The Escapist #1 ships on December 17. Priced $8.95, it also contains the first strip Howard Chaykin has written and illustrated in seven years as well as others drawn by Bill Sienkiewicz, Steve Lieber and Kevin McCarthy.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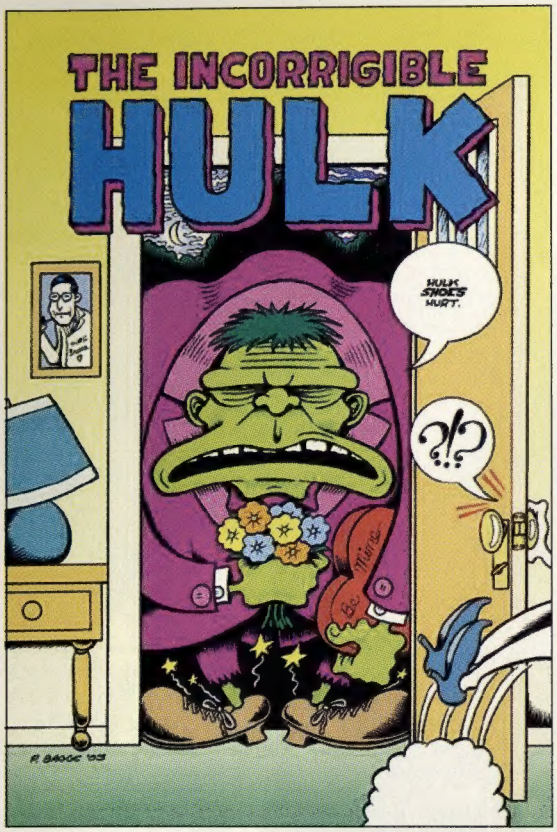


*ALTERNATIVE comix cartoonist Peter Bagge is working on a second superhero comic for Marvel. The **Hate!** creator is developing the as-yet unscheduled **Incorrigible Hulk** [see cover above] to follow **The Megalomaniacal Spider-Man**, his 2002 one-shot. Explaining why he chose to work with the Hulk, Bagge said, "Mainly because he's a witless, raging irresponsible lunatic – that's the version of him that I'm working with, anyway. I also have a lot of fun making him say 'ironical' things. Out of the mouth of babes and like that."*

Toon Titans are Go!

PRIOR to writing **X-Men: Ronin**, J Torres was possibly best-known for **Sidekicks** [Fanboy, 2000].

That experience with his own band of youthful superhero partners should stand him in good stead now as he lines up to bring the Cartoon Network incarnation of DC's original kid team back to comics.

Featuring the latest of several versions of the group, **Teen Titans Go!** is illustrated by Todd Nauck and Lary Stucker, previously the art team on DC's second kid team title, **Young Justice**.

***Teen Titans Go!** #1, priced $2.25, ships on November 26.*

*Above: Dave Bullock's cover art for **Teen Titans Go!** #2.*

Image gets Cursed

NO HONOR'S Fiona Avery and newcomer Tippi Blevins are writing a Top Cow four-parter that blends Egyptology with the supernatural.

Discussing **Cursed** with **CI**, Blevins – who shares an interest in mythology and Egyptian history with her co-writer – said the Image series is about a woman who finds out her family's problems may be related to an Egyptian curse bestowed on her ancestor. "Everyone in her family has gone insane from it, but can she use it for good?"

Continuing, Blevins said the mini stars Shan Beaumont and her friend and co-worker Winston MacGregor. "They have been through a lot together, but nothing like this. As for motivation, nothing lights a fire under your butt like thinking you might be losing your mind."

Hitchcockian plot

Avery added, "We've worked out some cool gore effects too, that have to do with ancient mummification processes and other cool cultural references, stuff like that. There's plenty to feast your eyes on with art and graphics that tie into a kind of Hitchcock style plot."

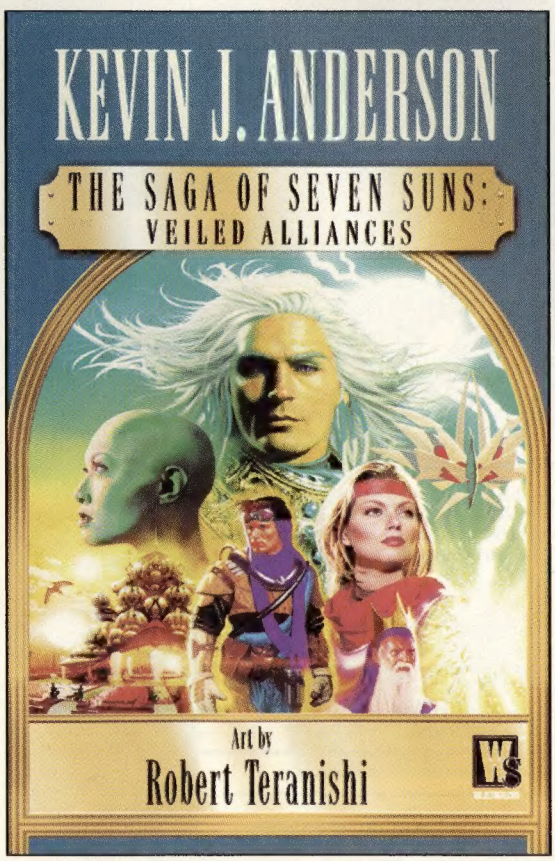
Cursed is drawn by **Lady Death/Medieval Witchblade**'s Romano Molenaar – who previously worked with Avery on **Makyo**, her aborted **No Honor** sequel – and **Spawn: The Dark Ages** inker Kevin Conrad.

***Cursed** #1, priced $2.95, ships in October.*

*Above: Joe Benitez' art for the alternate cover to **Cursed** #1.*

SF author seeks to expand market with graphic novel

KEVIN J Anderson is set to expand on what he describes as a multi-volume chronicle of a legendary war that spans half the Galaxy and nearly shatters the cosmos with a precursor story establishing many of the races and conflicts that feature in his **Saga of the Seven Suns** novels.



*Above: The cover to WildStorm's 96-page **Saga of the Seven Suns: Veiled Alliances** hardcover graphic novel; art by Steven Youll.*

With **Hidden Empire** and **A Forest of Stars**, the first two volumes in his epic, now available, Anderson is hoping that his **Veiled Alliances** graphic novel will prove to be a crossover hit.

"This is a unique opportunity," he told **CI**, "and I know Warner Books and DC/WildStorm have high hopes. Because both the comic publisher and the novel publisher are owned by the same parent company, they are allowed to do some really ambitious and innovative cross-marketing.

Explaining that the cover artist and design were the same for both graphic novel and book, he continued, "Since the comic tells a different piece of the story from the novels, we hope that book readers will pick up **Veiled Alliances**, which should get a better distribution into bookstores because of the connection with **Hidden Empire**. All in all, I hope we get comic readers to pick up the novel, and vice versa."

Veiled Alliances is drawn by **Star Wars: Union** artist Robert Teranishi.

● The co-author of several **Dune** prequels, Anderson's SF credits also include the **Star Wars Academy** trilogy and several **X-Files** novels.

***The Saga of the Seven Suns: Veiled Alliances** hardcover, priced $24.95, ships on January 14.*

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UK fledgling expands

Five new titles puts St Albans-based newcomer in running for title of Britain's number one publisher of originated adventure comics

WITH D C Thomson, Panini and Rebellion originating only a handful of titles between them and Com.X apparently fading from view, AP Comics is well on its way to establishing itself as Britain's leading purveyor of action/adventure comics.

Launched less than 12 months ago with a lone title, the St Albans-based publisher will have a slate of seven $3.50 series by the end of the year with a further two lined up to follow early in 2004.

While **Monster Club**, its maiden title, is ongoing, AP is concentrating on limited series with **Assassin School**, a six-parter, and the 10-issue **Darkham Vale** already under way. They are to be joined in November by three more.

*Above: The covers to the first issues of two of AP Comics' newest limited series – **Slaughter** (left); art by Aluisio De Souza and **Neutral World** (right); art by Joe Bennett.*

Digital Graffiti is set in London a few centuries from now. It tells of the teen gangs that roam the city, scrambling digital advertisements that are now a part of the landscape. A digitally painted four-parter, it is the work of two British newcomers, Gez Fry and his co-writer, Alex Frith.

Slaughter is written by **Assassin School**'s Phil Littler with a plotting assist from AP head Richard Emms. A three-issue series, it tells of the Slaughter sisters, who travel across 18th century Europe combating evil with flintlocks and swords.

It is to be drawn by Vitor Ishimura who replaces the previously announced Alusio De Souza.

The Crew

Possibly AP's highest profile release to date is **Neutral World**, its third November title, which is drawn by **The Crew**'s Joe Bennett.

*Above: Paul Gutierrez' interior art from the first $3.50 issue of AP Comics' **Kidd Bonzai and the Bot** four-parter.*

Written by Ruy Jose, the 12-parter is described a sci-fi/fantasy series.

Following in December is **Faro Korbit**. A four-parter by the **Kiss** team of Mike Baron and artist Mel Rubi, it is, the writer told **CI**, his and Rubi's take on a mystic hero.

Lined up for January is the launch of **Kidd Bonzai and the Bot**. The four-issue series is created and written by Derek Fridolfs and drawn by Paul Gutierrez.

- AP has yet to provide details of the second release it has planned for 2004.

NOD

THE NEW ONLINE GRAPHIC NOVEL

WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY GEOFF HARROLD

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THE STORY SO FAR:

Private eye BULLDOG PICKLES is hired by Minnie Cooper to track down her brother. Although he suspects she is not all she claims, Pickles finds himself more and more attracted to...

MINNIE COOPER - real name Chuck but subject to serial and involuntary sex changes. Her 'brother' is Code Name NOD, an evil genius predictably bent on destroying the world. The man in Minnie is attracted to...

TRACY RICHARD who runs a detective agency. Secretly Tracy has feelings for Pickles but so far has only aroused the amorous/carnal (delete inapplicable) urges in...

SAM THE WONDER DOG. Sam (pay attention now) will turn out to be a mathematical genius; fortunate then that he can talk. Hopefully he will learn to control the canine side of his personality.

Minnie operates from a DIMENSION AND TIME DISPLACING TRANSPORTER which, because of a glitch, materializes as a can of beans. George the onboard computer has started to have opinions of his own.

GREOFFIX COMICS

NOD is published every Thursday at www.greoffix.com

Image reveals details of Japan's Death

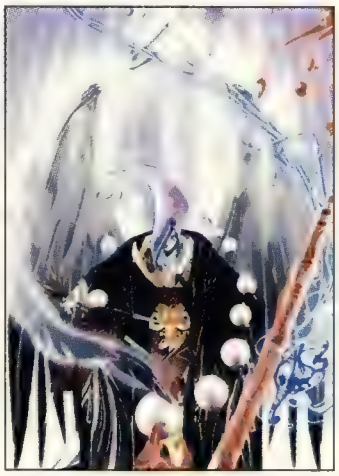
ANIMATOR Sho Murase is making her comicbook debut with a $6.95 64-page full colour one-shot that focuses on the Japanese personification of Death.

Written and drawn by Murase, Image's November-shipping **Sei: Death and Legend** stars an Oriental female version of the Grim Reaper.

"Sei is pronounced 'shi' and means 'death' in Japanese," Murase explained. "The book is inspired by Japanese Shinto mythology, the native Japanese religion. The main characters in this book are Gods – Izanami, who will potentially become Sei, and Izanagi, the god of light and heaven."

Sei recounts how giving birth to Tsuchi, the fire goddess, results in the death of Izanami and how losing his wife causes Izanagi to go berserk.

In an attempt to be reunited with Izanami, Izanagi travels to the farthest reaches of the Netherworlds where mortals fear to tread. But, after a battle of epic proportions, he is still left with one question... was Sei formerly Izanami, the primordial goddess and personification of the Earth and darkness?



*Above: A Sho Murase interior page from her 64-page Image one-shot, **Sei: Death and Legend**.*

*THIS December Fantagraphics is out to prove that love never goes out of style with a 160-page compilation of comics published by Archer St John during the 1950s. Conceived by Captain America creators Joe Simon and Jack Kirby, romance titles may now be dead but they were one of the biggest-selling genres of comics in that decade and editor John Benson's 7¾x10½" **Romance without Tears** collects some of the best. Written by Dana Dutch, many of the stories in the $22.95 softcover are illustrated by Matt Baker, best known for his work on **Phantom Lady**.*

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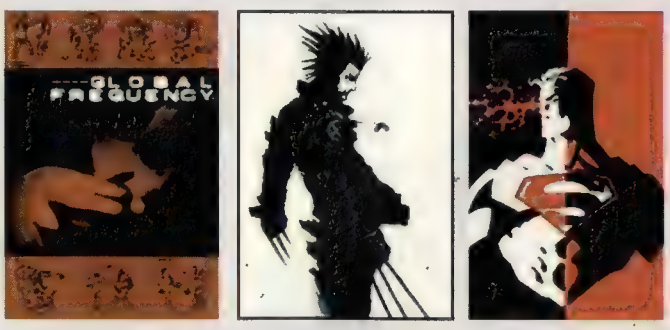

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In Brief

MARVEL has lost its **Hulk: Gray** team to DC.

Writer Jeph Loeb has signed a two-year exclusive with the publisher of his and artist Tim Sale's **Batman: The Long Halloween** while Sale has committed himself to the company for three years.

Catwoman: When in Rome, Loeb and Sale's follow up to their **Batman: Dark Victory** 13-parter, is already on the schedules for next year.

LONDON'S Cartoon Art Trust Museum has a hectic programme of events lined up for the end of the year.

Among the highlights are two cartoon workshops: *Manga Mania* on October 22 and *Bash Street Bonanza* on November 22 – which ties in with the *Little Plum and Bash Street UR 50!* exhibition running from November 4 to December 24. In addition, current *Little Plum* artist Hunt Emerson is giving an illustrated talk, *Underground Comics: A Personal History*, on October 29.

For further details contact the Trust at 7-13 Brunswick Centre, Bernard Street, London WC1N 1AF, telephone 020 7278 7172 or log on to *www.cartooncentre.org.uk*

FANTAGRAPHICS is to publish Carol Swain's second graphic novel in December.

An 80-pager, the British writer/artist's **Foodboy** is the black and white story of two childhood friends and how one tries to aid the other as life takes them down very different paths. The 7x10" softcover is priced $9.95.

STICKS and Stones is a 128-page graphic novel due from Crown Books next September.

A wordless story of the rise and fall of empires, it is written and drawn by Peter Kuper, who says it will be out just in time for the Republican Convention.

UNCANNY X-Men's Chuck Austen is adding another Marvel team title to his portfolio.

The writer is to replace Geoff Johns on **Avengers**, taking over with #77, which ships next April.

PANINI – Marvel UK as was – is to put DC's Dark Knight back on British newsstands after almost a decade's absence.

Launching on October 30 is **Batman: Legends**, a £2.40 monthly which leads with Jeph Loeb and Jim Lee's *Hush*. It is also to include Larry Hama and Scott McDaniel's stories from **Batman** #575 up and classic Neal Adams tales.

The deal with DC also allows Panini to reprint the forthcoming **JLA/Avengers** crossover miniseries set to begin in October's **Avengers United** #33.

***THUNDERCATS** fans can take their choice from two similarly-titled 48-page specials that reveal previously untold aspects of characters on either side of the conflict. Written by Ford Gilmore and Ken Siu-Chong, WildStorm's **Origins – Heroes and Villains** and **Origins – Villains and Heroes** each contain four stories drawn by UDON Studios and other artists. The standalone specials – which feature linking covers by UDON* [see art above] *– ship a fortnight apart with **Heroes and Villains** hitting stores first, on December 3. Both titles are priced $3.50.*

Marvel horror artist resurfaces at CrossGen

A FANTASY series created by **The Spectre** writer J M DeMatteis is bringing Mike Ploog back to monthly comics after an absence of almost 30 years.

Abadazad is to be the artist's first regular title since he came to fame in the early 1970s drawing such Marvel series as **Werewolf by Night**, **Frankenstein**, **Man-Thing**, and *Ghost Rider* in **Marvel Spotlight**. To be published under CrossGen's creator-owned Code 6 imprint, it also features an opening real world chapter illustrated by Butch (**Ruse**) Guice.

*Above: The cover to the 48-page **Abadazad** #1; art by Mike Ploog.*

"**Abadazad** is a story I've wanted to tell for years," the writer told **CI**. "I've long felt that the comicbook business has, with rare exceptions, turned its back on young readers in its quest to be 'edgy' and 'adult'.

"Where are the books that will nurture young hearts and imaginations? Why aren't we seeing smart, literate, beautifully-illustrated stories in the tradition of great children's literature?" DeMatteis asked rhetorically.

He added that Abadazad is a magical land that the series' lead – a surly, cynical 14 year-old named Kate – has only known through a series of famous fantasy novels written, 100 years before, by a writer named Franklin O Barrie until she journeys there in search of Matt, her younger brother, who vanished five years earlier.

***Abadazad** #1, priced $2.95, ships on December 10.*

Future axes monthlies

BEFORE its first issue has even printed, Future Comics' **Peacekeeper** is cancelled. The company is also axing **Deathmask**, **Freemind** and **Metallix** as it moves out of periodical publishing.

While majors collect only their top-selling story arcs, in a bold and expensive move Future is creating a series of ongoing trade paperbacks for the mass market. But the decision could equally be viewed as desperation from a fledging superhero comics publisher whose titles had little impact on the specialist market.

Latest estimated figures indicate average sales of less than 2,500 per comic.

Marvel compacts classics

TOPICS Entertainment has acquired the CD-ROM rights to Marvel's back catalogue.

Better-known for educational and reference material, the Washington-based manufacturer is set to launch its ***Marvel Comic Book Library*** with a first volume containing 100 complete comics. Included are the first 10 issues of **Avengers**, **Daredevil**, **Fantastic Four** and **Silver Surfer** as well as **Amazing Spider-Man** #1-9 and 15 and **Incredible Hulk** #1-6. Also featured are **Tales of Suspense** #39-48 [Iron Man] and 59-68 [Captain America] and **Tales to Astonish** #60-63 [Hulk] and 70-79 [Sub-Mariner].

To be released later this year, the $29.95 pack – which offers a number of viewing options, including in colour or black and white – also contains **X-Men** #1 but then leaps to #94-102.

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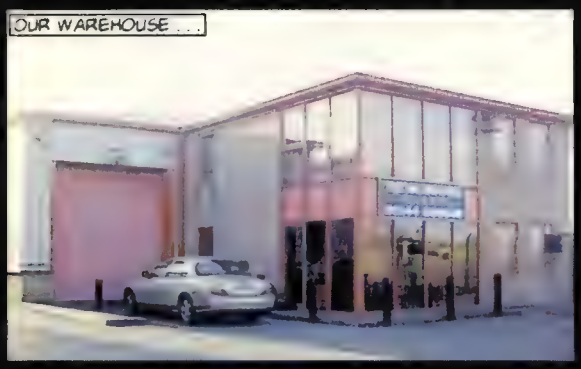

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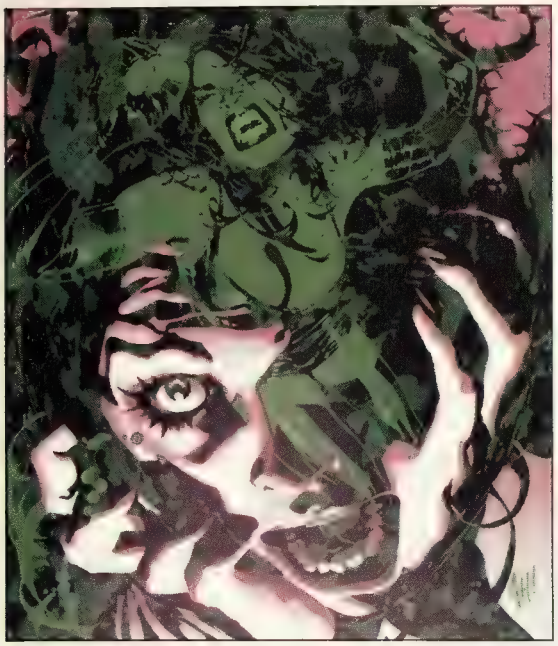


BIRDS of Prey *writer Gail Simone is to a revive a schizophrenic DC heroine who first appeared in 1970's* ***Superman's Girl Friend Lois Lane*** *#105. Treated by an unscrupulous psychiatrist following her father's murder, Rhosyn Forest develops two completely separate personalities – sweet Rose, who simply wants to escape from the tragedy, and Thorn, a wild-woman who wants revenge. The six-issue* ***Rose & Thorn*** *tells their story. Illustrated by Adriana Melo, a relative newcomer, and Dan (****Uncanny X-Men****) Green, the $2.95 six-parter launches on December 17. Shown above is Adam Hughes' cover art for the first issue.*

Wynonna rides again

Wyatt Earp's descendant follows in her ancestor's footsteps as a US marshall but her quarry is supernatural creatures not traditional outlaws

GUY Gardner Warrior writer Beau Smith is set to resurrect Wynonna Earp, his female US marshall, for a five-issue run at IDW Publishing.

Earp, a descendant of legendary lawman Wyatt Earp, works for The Black Badge, a covert division which investigates paranormal crime and has done so for over 100 years.

"The legend of the old west saddled with modern law," said Smith, describing the law officer to **CI**. "It doesn't matter if you're a monster, vampire, zombie or werewolf... you break the law... you deal with the law... Wynonna Earp."

The US marshall first appeared in a 1996 Image five-parter. She returns in **Home on the Strange**, which is drawn by Brazilian newcomer Carlos Ferreira.

Wynonna Earp: Home on the Strange *#1, priced $3.99, ships in December.*

Above: Carlos Ferreira's cover art for the first issue of IDW's ***Wynonna Earp: Home on the Strange*** *five-parter.*

Hip-hop comes to comics

IMAJINATION Studios is trying to attract a new audience with an Image four-parter writer Brandon Schultz describes as a hip-hop comicbook.

Created by the Madtwiinz – artists Mark And Mike Davis – **Blokhedz** is set in Empire City, which, Schultz told **CI**, is basically New York City on steroids. "The specific neighbourhood our story takes place in is Monarch Housing Projects, the armpit of the universe."

Lord of the Rings

"The world of the **Blokhedz** has fantastic elements, but at the same time, it has an authenticity to it that people have really responded to," added Schultz, who also describes the mini as **The Lord of the Rings** meets *8 Mile*. "To me the authenticity starts with Mark's pencils and is augmented by Mike's sense of colour, hopefully my dialogue reflects that as well and we continue with that respect for the culture on down the line.

Above: The cover to the second issue of Image's ***Blokhedz*** *four-parter; art by the Madtwiinz – Mark and Mike Davis.*

"When I say culture," explained Schultz, "I am referring to global youth culture which is identified in the media as hip-hop. By my definition, Korn is hip-hop, 50cent is hip-hop, Rage against the Machine was hip-hop, Mark Wahlberg is hip-hop, Larry and Andy Wachowski have to be hip-hop and so on.

"Hip-hop is not just a music or a fashion style, but an aesthetic, a world view, a way of life. You can wear a tight shirt and listen to the White Stripes and still be hip-hop," added Schultz, who feels that most titles make no attempt to reach the young or so-called 'urban' audience.

Blokhedz *#1, priced $2.95, ships on November 5.*

Cable and Deadpool unite

TWO MUTANTS who lost their titles in one of Marvel's recent prunings of its line of X-comics are being given another chance to star in an ongoing series.

Original **X-Force** writer Fabian Nicieza is bringing together Cable and Deadpool – two of the most popular members of that now-defunct team – in a monthly drawn by UDON's Mark Brooks.

Above: Rob Liefeld's cover art for ***Cable & Deadpool*** *#1.*

Asked by **CI** how he planned to keep two such disparate heroes interesting, Nicieza replied, "By putting them in situations that highlight their similarities as much as their differences, and there are a lot of similarities between them, first and foremost is their loneliness.

"I think they're both very good at what they do when it comes to blowing things up," he added. "Both men have to – and want to – become better at more than just that. I also think that both characters could stand to use some of their roles reversed just a bit."

Expanding on that remark he said that Deadpool – who he describes as a professional mercenary with a mouth like a caffeinated hamster on a treadmill, was never created to be played just for laughs. He also feels that Cable has possibly become a bit too morose and tragic.

Cable & Deadpool *#1, priced $2.99, ships on November 19.*

Missing private "i" launches new imprint

COMICS publishing stalwart Byron Preiss has launched a range of graphic novels under his new imprint, ibooks – "America's fastest growing small publisher" according to **Publisher's Weekly**. ibooks is releasing a slew of reprint and original titles including **Yossel: April 19, 1943**, a hardcover by Joe Kubert due in October.

First books to appear are two anthologies, **Marlowe: The Graphic Novel** and **The Best of Ray Bradbury: The Graphic Novel**. The former title is finally published after years of lanquishing in 'development hell' and features work by Jerome Charyn, Rian Hughes, David Lloyd, James Rose, Alfredo Alcala and others, adapting classic Raymond Chandler stories.

The Bradbury collection includes work by Mike Mignola, Dave Gibbons, Matt Wagner and Michael Lark, and is comprised of reprints from the 1993 five-issue Topps miniseries.

ibooks is also reprinting many obscure or hard-to-find graphic novels including Alex Ross's first major work **Terminator: Burning Earth**, Harlan Ellison and Richard Corben's **Vic and Blood** and **Honour Among Punks** by Guy Davis and Gary Reed.

Author/editor/publisher Priess has had a long comics-related history having produced much of Randy & Jean-Marc Lofficier and Moebius's work in the USA, and is continuing to repackage European work such as Díaz Canales & Guarnido's **Blacksad**.

*Above: Jim Steranko's cover to the delayed **Marlowe: The Graphic Novel**, now on sale priced £12.99.*

Creator of Richie Rich: 1921-2003

WARREN Kremer, the artist responsible for such classic Harvey Comics creations as Richie Rich, Hot Stuff and Casper, the Friendly Ghost, died on 24 July, aged 82.

Kremer was born in the Bronx, New York and graduated from the School of Industrial Arts. Early work with 'pulp' publishers Ace Magazines, included illustrations on **Heroes of the Air** and **Air Trail Blazers**.

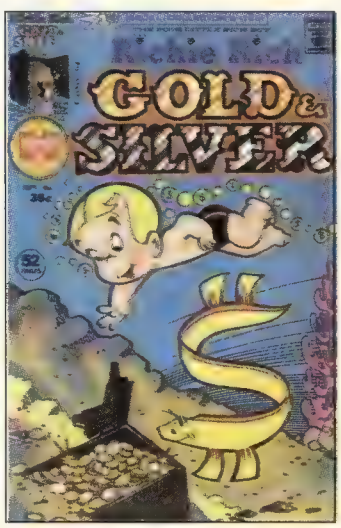
When Ace diversified into comicbooks, Kremer worked on the humorous **Hap Hazard** and met his future wife, Grace, an accomplished artist who would later letter most of his work.

Kremer began freelancing for Harvey, working on its war, romance and horror titles before switching to cuter children's characters like Little Audrey, Baby Huey and others.

He created Richie Rich – named after his eldest son – who would eventually appear in a record-breaking 46 different titles.

In 1957 Krenmer also created the little devil known as Hot Stuff. When Harvey Comics shut down in 1982, he worked at Marvel's children's range, Star Comics, on titles including **Heathcliff** and **Count Duckula**.

Kremer retired to New Jersey in 1989, after a stroke prevented him from drawing. He is survived by his wife, Grace, and their four children.



*Above: **Richie Rich Gold & Silver** #1 [1975]*

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In Brief

MARVEL is continuing to make subtle adjustments to its **Must Haves** policy.

Having already dropped the original format, which reprinted unrelated comics, in favour of single series compilations, it now intends to keep the more popular titles in print.

First to benefit from the change is the $3.99 **Marvel Must Haves: Wolverine**. Reprinting the first three issues of Greg Rucka and Darick Robertson's recent relaunch of the **X-Men** spin-off, the 80-page one-shot is on sale now.

BRIAN Bolland has created over 300 covers for DC and these are to be the focus of a new series of posters, which will include the British artist's cover art for **Batman: The Killing Joke**.

First up is the *Batgirl First Appearance Poster*. The art to the current **Batman: Gotham Knights**, #43, it ships from DC Direct on February 18, priced $7.95.

UNTOUCHABLE, writer Fiona Avery's latest spin off from J M Straczynski's **Rising Stars**, has been pushed back to April.

Originally scheduled somewhat prematurely for a September launch, the Image/Top Cow five-parter is being drawn by **Astro City**'s Brent Anderson.

DC HAS nabbed another key creator from Marvel.

Wolverine's Greg Rucka has signed an exclusive two-year deal with the publisher for whom he currently writes **Gotham Central**. A former **Batman** writer, who recently took over **Wonder Woman**, he is also lined up to take over **Adventures of Superman** as part of DC's Jim Lee-led Superman revamp scheduled for next March.

MARVEL is hoping to improve and streamline its interaction with the freelance community through its newly-established Talent Relations Office.

Headed by editor C B Cebulski under the guidance of managing editor David Bogart, the new unit is not only to "manage talent to assure complementary creative teams are matched with projects best suited for their skills, and to address freelancer concerns and issues that arise during the creative process" but also to "seek to recruit new talent from all creative disciplines."

DC HAS dropped the launch of **The 7th Helper** from its November schedule.

Created and written by animator Mo Willems, the ongoing non-DC Universe series – drawn by Dietrich Smith and Walden Wong – will now premiere next spring.

Cisco Kid resurrected

CINEMA and television may have presented him as a debonair hero but O Henry created the Cisco Kid as a no good desperado and that is how he is being depicted in his return to comics after an absence of almost 45 years.

He makes his comeback in a Moonstone three-parter written by Jim Duffy. The black & white **Cisco Kid** is drawn by Jerry DeCaire, who worked on various Marvel titles in the early '90s.

Discussing the Kid with **CI**, Duffy said, "What amazed me most in my research is why the original O Henry character was ever licensed for movies and TV in the first place. He's a despicable character, who killed innocent people for no reason.

"Unfortunately," he continued, "once the studios got hold of the character, the pendulum swung too far in the other direction and he was sterilised to the point of blandness. So, what I did was find a middle ground.

"Our Cisco still settles arguments with a gun and a Bowie knife, and he's still a hunted criminal, but he also regrets some of his past deeds," Duffy, a comics newcomer, explained. "He carries a rather disturbing dark secret from his past, which is eventually revealed and helps define what he's all about.

"I've also incorporated the Pancho sidekick – who, by the way, was not a part of the original [1904] O Henry story – but again in a much different form than the TV and movie version," said Duffy, who added, "I also kept in mind that this series is part of Moonstone's noir line. So, although it's a western, the scenes are dark and moody, and the storyline is quite edgy for a western."

● Dell launched a **Cisco Kid** series in 1950. A TV tie-in, it ran 41 issues until 1958.

*Above: Jerry DeCaire's cover art for **Cisco Kid** #1.*

***Cisco Kid** #1, priced $2.95, ships in January.*

Alternative Homecoming for Hurd

THE WRITER of the Eisner Award nominated **My Uncle Jeff** is setting up shop with Alternative Comics, which is not only to release a new edition of his self-published comic but also to take responsibility for his future titles.

First up from Damon Hurd under the new arrangement is **A Sort of Homecoming**, which, he told **CI**, is about the lifelong friendship we share with only one special person.

Hurd added that the black and white 24-pager – which is drawn by Pedro Camello, his **My Uncle Jeff** collaborator – begins when Owen, a Boston comicbook artist, receives news of his best friend's tragic death. "What follows is Owen's journey, not only from Boston to New York for the funeral but also back in time as he recalls events from their lives."

***A Sort of Homecoming**, priced $3.50, ships in October.*

CI #162 Simpsons Classics competition winners

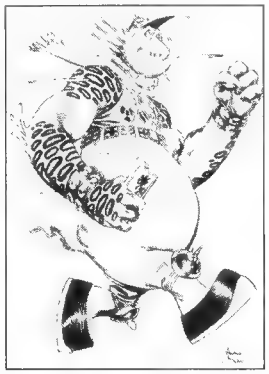
IN **CI** #162, five readers were offered the opportunity to each win a copy of Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment's **Simpsons Classics** five DVD set. The lucky winners were:

Rob Douglas of Chorlton, Manchester; **Frances Hannon**, Alderholt, Fordingbridge, Hampshire; **Steve Jones** of Leckhampton, Cheltenham, Gloucester; **Dean Kensett** of Mile Oak, Portslade, East Sussex and **James Wood** of Camphill, Northampton.

Reader votes scored the popularity of **CI** #162's contents as:

1 News International (22.2%)
2 Reviews (13.1%)
3 NetWorks (11.2%)
4 Advance Listings (6.2%)
5 Letters/Comic Cuts (6.1%)
6 Talking Shop (5.7%)
7 Q&A (5.4%)
8 Comment (4.4%)
9= Frame to Frame (4.1%)
9= Sez Dez (4.1%)
11 Novel Graphics (3.8%)
12 Competitions (3.7%)
13 Biff's Illuminations (3.2%)
14 Panel Beaters (2.3%)
15 Advertisements (1.8%)

The highest scoring section as the least popular feature was again "None, they're all fine" – very encouraging at 22.4%, with Comics Economics second at 16.8% and Paradise X #12 Preview third at 11.2%.



ALAN Davis is contributing four new illustrations [pictured] *to Comic Festivals'* **Charity Deck of Christmas Cards**, *a limited edition of 500 packs. Davis's*

originals – which feature his first drawings of the D R and Quinch crew in over 10 years – and those of the other 50

contributors to the festive fund raiser are to be auctioned off in aid of ChildLine at the event, which is being held in the London Bloomsbury Holiday

Inn on November 1. Further details and £5 advance tickets can be obtained by logging on to comicfestival.co.uk

Valentina's Guido Crepax dies aged 70

ITALY'S foremost erotic cartoonist died of multiple sclerosis on July 31. He was 70.

Best known as the creator of Valentina, Guido Crepax was born Guido Crepas in Milan in 1933.

After graduating from the School of Architecture at the University of Milan in 1958, he illustrated book covers and record sleeves before beginning his comics career with contributions to **Tempo Medico**, a medical magazine.

In 1965 Crepax became one of the first contributors to **Linus**. His strip *Neutron* featured Philip Rembrandt, a man who possessed extraordinary powers, but it was the amateur sleuth's girlfriend who was to become a star.

Introduced as a supporting player in the third issue of **Linus**, Valentina was a sadomasochistic adventuress. Based on silent movie star Louise Brooks, she posed a dilemma for feminists who were infuriated by her existence as a sex object while being impressed by her sexual emancipation.

Although he launched Valentina into her own series of graphic novels, in recent years Crepax has tended to concentrate his efforts on adaptations of such classics of erotic literature as the Marquis de Sade's **Justine** and **Juliette**, Pauline Reage's **Story of O** and Leopold von Sacher Masoch's **Venus in Furs**. He also produced decidedly erotic versions of Robert Louis Stephenson's **Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde** and Henry James' **Turn of the Screw**.

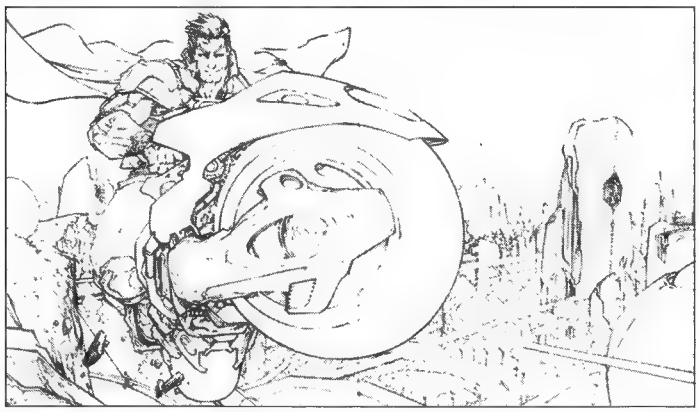
He is survived by his wife and three children.

Spirit editor 1946-2003

Comics editor, journalist and writer Dave Schreiner died of metastatic bladder cancer on August 27.

Editor in chief at Kitchen Sink from 1983 to 1993, he was also Will Eisner's personal editor, overseeing **The Spirit** magazine as well as a number of Eisner's graphic novels.

Schreiner is survived by his wife Lesleigh Luttrell and a sister, Elaine (Gerry) Schmidt.



ASPEN Entertainment founder Michael Turner and his protegé Talent Caldwell are teaming up with exiting ***Action Comics*** *writer Joe Kelly for a six-parter that bridges the gap between the current direction of Superman's core titles and their Jim Lee-led revamp. Kicking off in February's* ***Action*** *#812,* While You were Out *runs through Adventures* ***of Superman*** *#625,* ***Superman*** *#202,* ***Action*** *#813,* ***Adventures of Superman*** *#626 before concluding in March's* ***Superman*** *#203. Co-written by Kelly and Turner and pencilled by Caldwell* [see art above], the serial – *which Turner describes as Superman meets* The Matrix *meets* Total Recall – *follows the Man of Steel's adventures after he goes missing from Earth but also sets up the players and situations for the new creative teams' take over of the series.*

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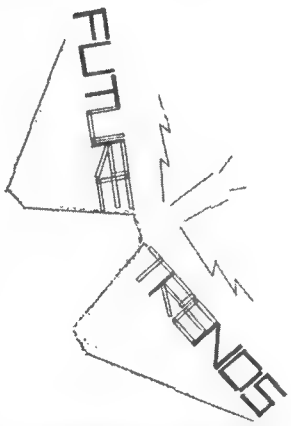

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ANRO

Man-Thing goes Down Under for low budget, direct-to-video quickie

Mike Conroy's Frame to Frame

Charting the latest news between films and comics

WHILE the jury's still out on Universal's *Hulk* and Fox didn't fare too well with *Daredevil*, Fox did incredible business with both its X-Men movies, a success emulated by Sony with *Spider-Man*. While there are more mega-budget movies in the pipeline Artisan is looking for a hit at the other end of the budgetary scale with a film featuring one of Marvel's lesser known characters.

With none of the fanfare that accompanied the development of its big budget brethren – and we've got to include the *Blade* films, two more jewels in Marvel's movie crown, in that list – shooting has just started in Australia on *Man-Thing*.

Introduced in the 1971 first issue of the black and white **Savage Tales** magazine in a Gray Morrow-illustrated story written by Gerry Conway, the creature from the bog was conceived by Roy Thomas as a tribute to Theodore Sturgeon's *It!* and Hillman's Golden Age muck monster, the Heap.

The mindless, shambling monster – who became a cult favourite at the hands of writer Steve Gerber – was more of an observer than a hero in any real sense of the word. And that's what stands in the way of any faithful adaptation to the screen.

It's difficult to imagine any movie whose star has no interaction with the rest of the cast and is nothing more than an onlooker, even one whose instinct is to kill evildoers... As it was explained in the comics – Whoever knows fear burns at the Man-Thing's touch.

That makes a great tagline but how *Lawnmower Man* and *Virtuosity*'s Brett Leonard – who is writing as well as directing the direct-to-video project, possibly based on a script by Hans Rodinoff – plans to approach that angle with out giving the creature some glimmer of sentience is currently a matter of conjecture.

Swamp Thing

There's another spectre or three haunting the Marvel swamp. As anyone with a long memory may recall Len Wein and artist Bernie Wrightson came up with a shambling muck monster of their own for DC almost at the same time as Man-Thing made his first splash.

Debuting in **House of Secrets** #92 [1971], Swamp Thing may be remembered for writer Alan Moore's imaginative mid-'80s reworking of the concept but there's a stink around old Swampy and it relates to his movie and TV career, which doesn't do much for the screen image of shambling muck monsters, even if the 1982 first film was directed by Wes Craven, of *Nightmare on Elm Street* and *Scream* fame.

But then, this is a low budget quickie so nobody's looking for giant-size Man-Thing results.

Live fast...

... so others don't die young is the mantra of the soon-to-be second TV incarnation of The Flash.

Apparently the WB network has ordered a pilot episode for a new live action series based on the DC Comics superhero but this will be nothing like the John Wesley Shipp version from 1990.

Instead, following the lead given by *Smallville*, the character won't be wearing that familiar red spandex costume.

The new Flash is just an ordinary guy fresh out of college who discovers that he has superhuman speed. Suddenly he has found his calling and adopts his mantra.

In addition to cloning the 'no tights, no flights' superheroes-in-the-real-world aspects of *Smallville*, the new Flash will also use his super speed to travel back and forth in time, which has some intriguing possibilities.

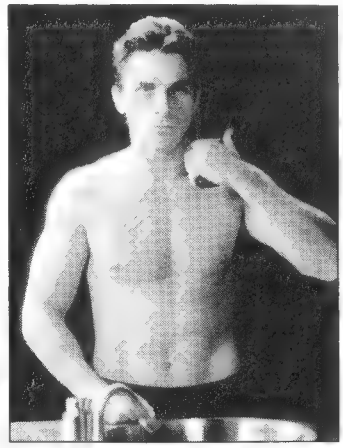
Carolyn Bernstein, WB executive vice president of drama development describes the show as "a big fun adventure series. There's also a mentor character who'll train him, and there's a legacy of Flashes before him."

While no mention has been made to the Speed Force, it sounds like someone's keeping up with the current DC version of the Scarlet Speedster, but even so it might be a tad too revisionist for died-in-the-wool DC crumblies.

Still, it's obviously another attempt at grabbing the post-*Buffy* youth audience and there's nowt wrong about that.

Let's face it, Comics. Movies. TV. They're all aspects of the entertainment industry and just so long as they entertain, can we really complain if a move from one medium to another doesn't result in a faithful translation?

No... But it gives us something to grumble about.



Above: The new Batman – Christian Bale as seen in Equilibrium.

American Psycho

Moving over to WB's big brother, Warner Bros has announced that Christian Bale is to don the cape and cowl for *Batman 5*.

Given the actor's lead role in *American Psycho*, the casting could lead to an interesting portrayal of Bruce Wayne as a man on the edge.

As director Chris (*Memento*) Nolan remarked, "What I see in Christian is the ultimate embodiment of Bruce Wayne. He has exactly the balance of darkness and light that we were looking for."

There's no word on the movie storyline – written by Nolan and *Blade*'s David Goyer – so, given that the Welsh-born Bale has yet to hit 30, there's always a possibility that we'll be getting an early years Batman if not the much rumoured adaptation of Frank Miller's *Batman: Year One*, which is reported to be as dead as a very dead thing.

And there's Moore

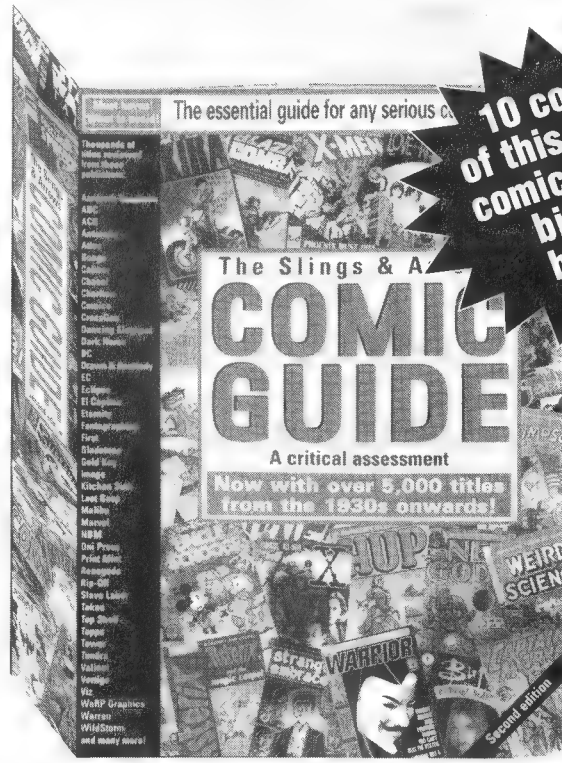
Fancy seeing Krypto the Super Dog make the leap to screen stardom? Think it'll happen any time soon?

Well, it could and he might – sort of... Writer Alan Moore's version of Superboy's canine companion has been picked up by Platinum, which is looking to bring the acclaimed British scribe's Radar the Hound Supreme to the small screen as part of its just inked first look deal with Walt Disney TV Animation.

Moore's first project aimed at kids, it features the dog he introduced in Awesome's **Supreme** #42 [1992], as a pet for his Superman avatar.

Above: Carmine Infantino's pencil art for the cover to ***The Greatest Flash Stories Ever Told****. Left: Man-Thing by Frank Brunner.*

CUT OUT COUPON ALONG DOTTED LINE



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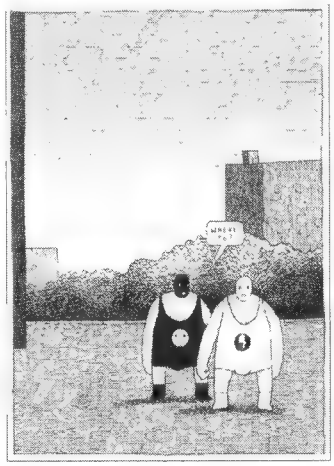
New Brits on the Block

Novel Graphics by Paul Gravett

Highlighting the latest and best in graphic novels

THE FLIMSY excuse for missing last issue's column was that I was gallivanting in Berlin. Actually, I was heavily involved as Great Britain was the *Gastland* or guest country at the 2nd biennial Berlin Comics Festival (*www.berliner-comicfestival.de*).

The German branch of The British Council, an organisation with a mission to promote British culture abroad, showed a refreshingly enlightened attitude towards comics. It provided some welcome financial support to bring over a number of publishers, experts and creators, including Hunt Emerson, Lorna Miller, Ilya and Steven Appleby.



Above: Tom Gauld art from **Second**.

The BC also invited everyone to a party with the promise of a slap-up buffet, drinks and a sound-system, always a good way to draw a crowd.

Deputy Director Andrew Glass kept the speeches short, and I followed with a 'brief introduction to the British comics publishing scene'. Gloom-and-doom merchants among you might suggest that any introduction to current British comics is bound to be pretty brief, on the basis that these days there's precious little origination – at least on the newsstands – outside of the children's titles, the **2000 AD** and **Viz** camps and of course **Striker**.

I'd almost agree, except that I detect encouraging signs elsewhere of new home-grown publishers setting up and renewed interest from a couple of the major general publishers too. Call me an eternal optimist, but I do think the comics and graphic novel scene here has started stoking up again for the better, so I wanted to alert you to some of them.

Of the four young publishers I met at the Berlin Festival, the longest running and probably best known is Julie Burchill's favourites **Metaphrog** (*www.metaphrog.com*) from Glasgow. A few years ago, Sandra and John boldly ventured into full-colour albums, three so far, which entice you into the perturbing daily struggles of little **Louis** to maintain his individuality in a state-controlled dystopia. Don't be fooled by Sandra's gentle wash illustrations – like all the best 'children's books' this trilogy operates on a variety of thought-provoking levels.

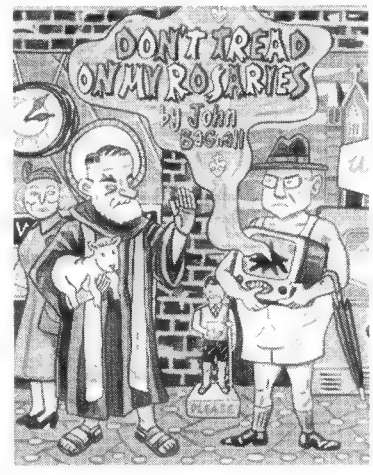
It was a surprise after a good few years to catch up with Dominic Regan. I first knew him through his Eighties small press comic **Captain Britain** (no relation). Dom was representing Rough Cut Comics (*www.roughcut-comics.com*), also from Glasgow. As the Festival was being held within a sprawling former baking factory in East Berlin, it seemed an appropriate ex-Communist setting to promote his pinko **Avengers** satire **The Freedom Collective**.

This inspired comicbook parody, complete down to the Rasputin model kit advert and censored lettercol are apparently too cheeky for Bush's America. Based on the other mock Marvel covers Comrade Dom was showing around, I'd love to see more.

Don't ask publisher-editor Sylvia Farago what **Sturgeon White Moss** means; it came to her husband Alex Tucker in a dream and wound up being the title of their dark, eclectic comics anthology, published twice or thrice yearly (*www.whitemosspress.com*). In the three 52-page issues to date, emerging British or British-based talents, including South African team John Dunning and Nikhil Singh on the Beardsley-esque mystic 'Salem Brownstone', rub shoulders with international names like Zograf, Cooper, Burns, Jason and Brinkman. For personal and challenging comics experiments, **SWM** is the UK's spanking, much-needed spacelab.

Tom Gauld and Simone Lia are among **SWM**'s contributors, as well as publishing their own smartly-produced titles. (*www.cabanonpress.com*). Their understated, elegant **First** and **Second** were spotted by Bloomsbury Press, who are compiling them both into a book called **Both**. You might have spotted Tom's high-profile spots recently in **Time Out** and **The Guardian**, while Simone is starting her ambitious four-part graphic novel series **Fluffy**. The pair will be launching **Both** at London's ICA (*www.ica.org.uk*) on October 28th, joined by Steven Appleby with his most narrative cartoon book yet, **Jim: The Nine Lives of a Dysfunctional Cat**.

Bloomsbury's children's department meanwhile has put out Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean's latest collaboration, **The Wolves in the Walls**. Bloomsbury isn't the only mainstream publisher pursuing graphic novels.



Above: The cover to John Bagnall's collection, **Don't Tread on my Rosaries**.

Jonathan Cape is quietly building an impressive list, adding this Christmas UK editions of Chris Ware's **Quimby the Mouse** and Joe Sacco's **Notes from a Defeatist** as well as a compendium of Posy Simmonds' wry **Literary Life** vignettes from **The Guardian** and a massive Raymond Briggs retrospective. Now if only Cape would commission a few more British cartoonists.

For those, you should check new Glasgow publishing house Kingly Books (*www.kinglybooks.com*). Absent from comics for far too long, John Bagnall and Ed Pinsent return with mature and distinctively English solo compilations. In **Don't Tread on my Rosaries** John infuses his short stories with unpredictable wit and evocations of vanished history. Where else are you going to read comics about the life-changing Catholic conversion of a Heinz food-colour chemist or David Bowie grocery-shopping in West Berlin? John's gifts as a raconteur have never been more engaging.

A blustery, beleaguered, ever-curious linguist and thinker, Windy Wilberforce is the character to whom Ed Pinsent seems most attached, chronicling him across more than 20 years.

Six of Windy's unpublished or little seen tales from the last ten years are gathered in **Voice of the Wilberforce**. These are visionary comics, not linear or plotbound, but rich with dreams, signs, languages, alchemical symbols; they fascinate like parables open to endless interpretation.

Still more publishers are entering the fray. The last issue of **Comics International** spilled the news of Nabiel Kanan's and Brett Ewins' plans. Steve Robson has launched the Fanfare line of sophisticated manga with the exquisitely erotic **Yukiko's Spinach** by Parisian-in-Tokyo Frédéric Boilet, while in the US, British font maestro Rich Starkings's Active Images is finally putting into book form lost gems like David Hine's troubling shocker **Strange Embrace** and Ilya's lycra-fest **Skidmarks**.

Somehow, good work is getting into print and getting out there.

Could the tide be turning?

Comment

Comics International, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ

Comment is a forum to enable fans and professionals alike to express their personal points of view on aspects of the comics industry. As such, the following opinions do not necessarily reflect those of this publication, but space will be given in subsequent issues to well-reasoned opposing views. Submissions are edited only for grammar, clarity and brevity.

The downside of a freebie

Comment by Robert Cox via e-mail: robertcox@zoom.co.uk

I THOUGHT you might like to know what I experienced recently. A couple of months ago **The News of the World**, in conjunction with Sainsbury's, was giving away a free comic. You know the deal – you cut the voucher out, present it at the supermarket and get the comic for nothing (obviously!). The comic being given away was **Ultimate X-Men** #2.

Now, I have always been a fan of British comics (**2000 AD**, **Victor**, **Judge Dredd Megazine**, etc) but I thought, "Something for nothing, let's give the American stuff a go." (Look, I'm being honest at least!) So I beetled off to my local Sainsbury's and was given the free comic. No trouble so far.

I then thought that as it was #2 I really should read #1 first (he says, falling into the trap!) so I rang Marvel subscriptions only to be told they don't stock back issues. I rang around a couple of local(ish) comics shops to see if they had it in stock, bearing in mind it was only six or seven weeks old. I was quoted various prices, the cheapest of which was an unbelievable 15 sodding quid!

So if dealers wonder why kids (let alone adults) don't buy comics any more can I suggest that they should stop gnawing on the hand that feeds them. Then perhaps back issue prices would get back in proportion.

Sorry, Marvel. I'm sticking with me **2000 AD**. Cheers for listening to my rant, but I feel there is a serious side to this which really doesn't bode well for the business.

Jack Chick comics

Comment by Julian Dass, Still totally Barnsley, Yorkshire

I READ an article in the **Independent Sunday Review** some weeks back about a comicbook author called Jack Chick. Although he calls his comics 'tracts", they are, by the usual accepted definition of the term, "comics".

Chick originally wrote and drew his comics, but since 1972 there were rumours and speculation about a new illustrator of Chick's written work. In 1980, Chick revealed the artist's identity as Fred Carter, an African-American illustrator, whose style (I think) has some similarities to a cutting-edge superhero artist of the '70s.

Chick has more than 500 million (!) copies of his 142 comics in print, including translations into more than 100 languages. Jack Chick is, simply, the world's most published living author, soundly thrashing J.K. Rowling.

In 1979, Chick and Carter wrote a series of **Crusader** comics, focusing on the life of Alberto Rivera, who, according to the story, was a Jesuit Priest who left the Catholic Church after discovering the Vatican's plans of world domination, as well as involvement in the Holocaust, the Jonestown massacre and the rise of Communism. People have said that the purpose of Chick's work genuinely seems to be attempting to instil terror in its readership:

"You Christians [but not Catholic Christians] are in a full-scale war and you don't know it! You are being attacked by the powers of darkness through spells and incantations. You don't even know what's going on... because you're playing church! You won't read your Bibles and Satan is going for your jugular vein!

"The Pope is an agent of Satan; there are devil worshipers in government; gay men plot to taint the nation's blood supplies with AIDS, the Pope is an agent of Satan AND SO IS YOUR NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOUR!"

Daniel Clowes (the Oscar-nominated screenwriter of *Ghost World)* said he read 80 Chick tracts in one sitting once; "By the end of the night I was convinced I was going to hell. I had never been so terrified by a comic."

Art Spiegelman (**Maus**) said; "It makes me despair about America that there are so many people who read these things."

Some Christian missionaries are known to use Chick's comics when they embark on missions to convert the heathen, donating 10 cents per tract to Chick for the assistance.

Most of the article concerned the journalist's fruitless quest to get an interview with the reclusive

77-year old author, but I was left wondering whether Chick's work has ever influenced what anybody might think about... anything.

There are 500 million of his comics out there in one form or another, besides which, missionaries actually pay to use Chick's stuff in their own persuasive endeavours; maybe they think his comics are an influence on some people. And if, just for the sake of argument, Chick has managed to influence what some people might think (not in a "Chick-made-me-do-it" sense but perhaps through a gradual ingested morality, value judgements and fear of imagined consequences), then could something similar be said for some other comicbooks?

Don't knock it

Comment by Peter Thompson, Hastings

I AM writing to ask, why do many people these days seem to be knocking Marvel and DC?

To me, these companies are the grand daddies of current comicbooks, and can still kick the butts of some of the new pretenders. Don't get me wrong, some of the new competition is doing a great job, but I still consider Marvel to be at the top.

I note great currents such as **Captain America**, **Daredevil**, **Muties** and **Captain Marvel**, and I am certainly looking forward to the new **Silver Surfer** series.

Marvel and DC don't just cater for the superhero fan. Through the years, there have been horror, sci-fi, sword and sorcery and even western titles. Characters such as Swamp Thing, Morbius and Robert E. Howard's Conan spring to mind, as well as a whole host of others.

But I do agree with other folk that it was a really bad move when Marvel and DC terminated their letters pages.

Cross over crossovers

Comment by Richard Domar, Wolverhampton

WITH the success of the Ultimate universe, did anyone notice how Marvel sneaked in that old chestnut, the crossover story? Not once but twice. First with **Ultimate War**, then putting Spidey in **Ultimate X-Men**. As if sales weren't high enough.

I mention this particular occurrence because Marvel has been pretty good these last couple of years, avoiding the dreaded crossover, and I for one have been very pleased about this fact. It was murder when reading back issues when suddenly one would end with the blurb continued in "other" title.

DC on the other hand has been continually doing it; a recent Green Lantern and Green Arrow multi-parter, for example. I really can't see the point of this, considering the other options available to the company. A simple solution is to do the story in prestige-format form, but if that's too easy, run the whole story as a miniseries with a new title. If it's good enough to do for a Batman or Superman story, it can be done with any hero. And has been many times.

The comics companies really do not have much consideration for their readers. Five years from now a new collector might start on this **Green Lantern** title. They will complete the run, only to get to that crossover story and be totally pissed off to find he has to get the missing **Green Arrow** issues to complete his reading entertainment. In fact, were he to get the complete run of the present **GL** he'll find several other crossover issues will be required. From memory, at least five occasions when a story goes into another title.

While it might seem like a good idea for current readers, no thought is given to any future ones. This would make for a good reason why people quit.

On the other hand, readers would flock back if Marvel killed off a major character like Aunt May. Death is always good to perk up ratings. As long as it ain't a **What If**.

While on the subject of why readers pack it in, DC recently relaunched **Wildcats**, calling it **Wildcats Version 3**. What a great idea. In fact, it's probably the best innovation of recent times. No way any issues can be confused with earlier series. Now why can't all companies do similar namings on every title that starts up again. I mean, **Wolverine** just started again and so has **Peter Parker, Spider-Man**, or is that **Spectacular Spider-Man**? Confusion already. DC has yet another **Titans** title (is that the fifth or sixth one?). It's no wonder nobody wants to buy back issues of a title that's had umpteen revivals. Dealers often supply wrong issues.

Finally, here's another great idea from Marvel. The **Fantastic Four** numbering begins again at issue 500. For fuck's sake. The title ended at #416, started again at #1 for 13 issues, and then again in 1998 yet another #1 for 70 issues. Another gimmick, must have an anniversary celebration issue. Just when you thought Marvel had become "civilised" this bollocks occurs.

I bet there'll be more to follow too and let's not forget the likelihood that **Fantastic Four** will last until 509 or so, then Marvel will start it up again with yet another #1, justifying it with either a new line-up of creators, or a change of personnel (for 15 issues).

Advance Listings

READERS: You can use this Advance Listings *section as an order form with your direct market store or mail order supplier. Simply mark the items you require, copy or remove these pages (or list them on a separate piece of paper) and give it to your supplier, together with a note of your name, address and phone number to guarantee not missing any of the new titles being published. Certain suppliers may not accept standing orders, so check with them first. All prices of US titles listed are in dollars. Import prices are usually converted at a rate of $1.00 = 85p UK sterling. Shipping dates given are the earliest date product will reach stores. All dates, prices and information are assumed to be accurate as provided by publishers.* *Compiled by Jim Hannah*

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Oh My Goddess! 103 *(Dr Moreau* 4 of 5; Kosuke Fujishima) A mad doctor is obsessed with building an autonomous bipedal robot, and there happen to be two of them living in the temple with Keichi and the goddesses. b&w $2.99

Star Wars: Republic 60 (Haden Blackman & Brian Ching) Obi-Wan Kenobi and Alpha, the ARC Trooper, are prisoners in the castle of the Dark Jedi Asajj Ventress. Not knowing how the Republic forces on Jabiim are faring, or even if Anakin is still alive, Obi-Wan and Alpha make a bid for freedom. .. $2.99

new **Trigun** Vol 1 (Yasuhiro Nightow; tpbk) Vash is a nice guy, but everyone wants to kill him. An enigma of a man with a coat full of bullet holes, he's widely feared because of the destruction left in his wake. He's also highly valued for the price on his head, but he's no easy man to kill. Of course, that doesn't stop people from trying. 360pg b&w $14.95

DC Comics

new **The 7th Helper** #1 (Mo Willems & Dietrich Smith + Walden Wong) In a world filled with advanced technology, violent robots, and too much advertising, young Mark Charles becomes vested as The 7th Helper, the latest in a line of superpowered beings. Can he handle the pressure? $2.50

Action Comics 809 (Joe Kelly & Pascual Ferry + Cam Smith) Who killed Jack Ryder? While on vacation with Lois, Clark becomes the prime suspect in a murder mystery. Since he was in action as Superman, he's the only one without an alibi. $2.25

The Authority 7 (Robbie Morrison & Dwayne Turner + Sal Regla; *WildStorm)* The Church of Transcendence has made the first move against the world's religious centres, preaching their brand of salvation while laying waste to entire cities. $2.95

Bad Girls 4 (Steve Vance & Christine Norrie + Daniel Krall) The Bad Girls of San Narciso High attend a funeral for a friend – or at least a cremation for a cohort. $2.50

Batman: City of Light 2 (Pander Brothers + Mark Paniccia & Pander Brothers + Alvaro Lopez) As a new Gotham rises, one madman threatens to tear it apart. His name is Purge, and his relentless attacks have thrown this new *City of Light* into chaos. $2.95

one-shot **Batman: The Arrow, The Ring, and the Bat** (Dennis O'Neil & Greg Land + Dick Giordano) Green Arrow provides the focal point for two stories set early in the careers of Batman, Green Lantern and the Emerald Archer. Collects Legends of the DC Universe #7-9 and Legends of the Dark Knight #127-131. 192pg $19.95

Detective Comics 788 *(The Randori Stone* 1 of 2; Paul Bolles + Rick Spears & Mike Lilly + Sean Parsons) Something's happened to Death Row's Eddie Hurst. He's become stronger. A lot stronger. And now he wants revenge on everyone who had a role in sending him down the river! 40pg $2.75

Extinction Event 5 (Robert Weinberg & Brett Booth + Sal Regla; *WildStorm)* The humans strike back as the races pit their technologies against each other. .. $2.50

Formerly Known as the Justice League 5 (Keith Giffen + J.M. DeMatteis & Kevin Maguire + Joe Rubinstein) After the events at Roulette's underground fight club, Captain Atom is out for the count – just when the former heroes of the JLI need him most. $2.50

Harley Quinn 38 (A.J. Lieberman & Charles Adlard) The apparent arrest of the Joker in Gotham sends Harley spiralling down a path of paranoia, and it appears the Joker has turned the tables on Harley again. $2.50

Hawkman 21 (Geoff Johns & Rags Morales + Michael Bair) Headless corpses litter the streets of St Roch, and the trail of skulls and blood leads to the mysterious creature known as the Headhunter! $2.50

JLA-Z 3 (Mike McAvennie & various) Profiling the DC characters prominently featured in JLA/Avengers, this issue spans from the Martian Manhunter to Zatanna. $2.50

JSA: All-Stars 7 (various) The modern day Mr Terrific finds himself under surveillance by DEO Agents. Wanting to get to the bottom of it, Mr Terrific confronts Director Bones and discovers a few things that will challenge the smartest man alive and shake him to the very core of his soul! 40pg $3.50

Justice League Adventures 25 (Ken Rothstein & Chris Jones + Dan Davis) The world's greatest superheroes are transported to the planet Rann to meet the adventurer Adam Strange. .. $2.25

one-shot **The Justice Society Returns!** (various) Collecting the 1999 crossover that brought the JSA back to the DC Universe. Reprints All-Star Comics #1-2, Adventure Comics #1, All-American Comics #1, National Comics #1, Sensation Comics #1, Smash Comics #1, Star Spangled Comics #1, and Thrilling Comics #1. 256pg $19.95

Looney Tunes 108 (various) Foghorn Leghorn plays barnyard detective, while Bugs Bunny busts up Yosemite Sam's motorbike rally. $2.25

one-shot **Point Blank** (Ed Brubaker & Colin Wilson; *WildStorm)* This trade paperback collects Point Blank #1-5, featuring Cole Cash, aka Grifter of the WildCats, on a deadly mission. 128pg $14.95

one-shot **Robotech: From the Stars** (Tommy Yune + Jay Faerber & various; *WildStorm;* tpbk) Reprinting Robotech #0-6 and the Robotech Sourcebook. 176pg $9.95

Robotech: Love and War 6 (Jay Faerber + Ken Siu-Chong & various; *WildStorm)* After defeating Miriya in a knife duel, Roy realises there's something extraordinary about this green-haired girl – and asks her to marry him! $2.95

one-shot **The Sandman Presents: The Furies** (Mike Carey & John Bolton; *Vertigo)* In the three years since Daniel left to fulfil his destiny as the new Sandman, Lyta Hall has suffered greatly from the loss of her only son. Now the bloodline that has made her kin to the Furies has taken over her senses – and her sanity. 96pg $17.95

new **Scooby-Doo Vol 1: You Meddling Kids!** (Terrance Griep Jr & various; tpbk) Join Scooby, Shaggy, Daphne, Fred, and Velma as they fight against a seemingly never-ending tide of supernatural flim-flammery. Collects Scooby-Doo #1-5. 112pg $6.95

Scooby Doo Vol 2: Ruh Roh! (Terrance Griep Jr & various) Collects Scooby-Doo #6-10. 112pg $6.95

Superman: Birthright 5 (Mark Waid & Leinil Yu + Gerry Alanguilan) It's Superman vs the anti-terrorism weapons of Metropolis. Is this strange visitor a bigger danger to the city than Superman himself? $2.95

Y: The Last Man 16 *(Comedy & Tragedy* 1 of 2; Brian K. Vaughan & Paul Chadwick + José Marzan Jr; *Vertigo)* What might art and entertainment be like in a world without men? The female performers of the Fish & Bicycle Traveling Theatre Company are here to show us. $2.95

Marvel

Alias 28 *(Purple* 5 of 5; Brian Michael Bendis & Michael Gaydos; *MAX Comics)* Jessica Jones confronts the sickest, most reprehensible villain in the Marvel Universe. $2.99

Crew 7 (Priest & Joe Bennett) The stage is set, the players are assembled – now it's time to race to the startling climax. $2.99

Doctor Octopus: Negative Exposure 2 (Brian K. Vaughan & Staz Johnson) As Doctor Octopus sets his brutal plans for Spider-Man's downfall into motion, the web-slinger is forced to face off with another member of his deadly rogue's gallery – the cold-blooded Vulture. $2.99

Elektra 29 (Robert Rodi & Will Conrad; *Marvel Knights)* Elektra is hired to assassinate the leader of a violent guerrilla movement in Southeast Asia. ... $2.99

Exiles 37 *(Fantastic Voyage* 3 of 3; Judd Winick & Jim Calafiore) The Exiles' inter-dimensional detour with the Fantastic Four takes a turn for the worse, and has devastating consequences for two Exiles. $2.99

one-shot **Marvel Encyclopedia Vol 4: Spider-Man** HC (various) Fully illustrated, comprehensive deluxe hardcover within-depth biographies, statistics, and reading lists. 240pg $29.99

one-shot **Marvel Masterworks: The Invincible Iron Man** Vol 1 (various) Experience the armoured Avenger's earliest adventures – including confrontations with arch-foes Crimson Dynamo and the Mandarin. Collects Tales of Suspense #39-50, #55. 208pg $39.99

New Mutants 7 *(The Ties That Bind* 1 of 2; Christina Weir + Nunzio Defilippis & Carlo Barberi; *Tsunami)* When a former anti-mutant demonstrator enrols at Xavier's, his transition is explosive. $2.50

Sentinel 9 *(No Hero* 3 of 3; Sean McKeever & UDON; *Tsunami)* Juston and his giant robot find themselves as the only hope for a group of people struggling for survival. $2.99

one-shot **Sentinel Vol 1: Salvage** (Sean McKeever & UDON) A tale about a boy and his giant robot. Collects Sentinel #1-6. 144pg $14.99

Spider-Girl 66 (Tom DeFalco & Ron Frenz) Darkdevil is down, Normie is down, even the Kingpin has fallen. May vows no one else will be harmed under her watch. $2.99

Thanos 2 (Jim Starlin) For what cosmic reason does Thanos seek a confrontation with the planet-devourer Galactus? $2.99

Ultimate Spider-Man 49 *(Unfair* 3 of 3, Brian Michael Bendis & Mark Bagley) Returning to the throne of his criminal empire, Wilson Fisk sends the Enforcers around to rough up Bugle publisher J. Jonah Jameson, so he'll support the Kingpin's candidate for Mayor... $2.25

Wolverine 7 *(Coyote Crossing* 1 of 7; Greg Rucka & Leandro Fernandez) In a dusty border town on the edge of Mexico, Logan chances upon a grisly discovery that begs for his unique brand of justice. $2.25

new **Wolverine: The End** 1 (Paul Jenkins & Claudio Castellini) As the circle begins to close, the death of someone important in his life draws Logan out of seclusion. $2.99

close-up

Batgirl: Year One

DC Comics

Writers: Scott Beatty + Chuck Dixon

Artists: Marcos Martin + Alvaro Lopez

A look into the origin of the original Batgirl, Barbara Gordon. Following her chance meeting with the Boy Wonder, Babs aspires to become a vigilante herself. Collects the nine-issue miniseries that uncovers Gordon's transformation from average citizen into costumed superheroine. 224pg $17.95

ON SALE NOVEMBER 12

ON SALE FROM
NOV 12

Dark Horse

Blade of the Immortal 84 (Hiroaki Samura) Rin Asano has travelled a long and difficult path on a quest for revenge. Now she finds herself allied

with Anotsu Kagehisa, the one responsible for the murders of her parents, her path is about to become more treacherous. b&w $2.99

Cannon God Exaxxion 19 (Kenichi Sonoda) Hoichi is in a position where he sometimes has to kill many for the good of the world, and he's about to find out how twisted his family life has become. b&w $2.99

one-shot **Conan the Legend** (Kurt Busiek & Cary Nord) Features a 16 page prelude story introducing readers to the sprawling, lusty, battle-filled legend of Conan, establishing characters and situations important to the series.$0.25

Ghost in the Shell II: Man-Machine Interface 10 (Masamune Shirow) It's tough enough running the risk of being caught by heavily-armed security in the real world, but when Matoko is being given the business by the godlike avatars in the virtual world, there is an even greater risk: assimilation and erasure. $3.50

one-shot **The Ring** Vol 1 (Hiroshi Takahashi & Misao Inagaki; tpbk) The Ring, a Japanese multimedia frenzy based on the best-selling horror novels by Koji Suzuki, is now for sale as manga. 304pg b&w $14.95

new **Star Wars: Infinities – Return of the Jedi** 1 (Adam Gallardo & Ryan Benjamin + Saleem Crawford) An accident puts C-3PO out of commission, and he is unable to act as Jabba the Hutt's interpreter during his negotiations with Leia. $2.99

one-shot **Star Wars: The Stark Hyperspace War** (John Ostrander & Davidé Fabbri + Christian Dalla Vecchia; tpbk) Smuggler and pirate Iaco Stark's commercial combine has disrupted the production of bacta, the most important healing agent in the galaxy. 96pg $12.95

Syn 4 (Keith Giffen & Greg Titus + Julian Washburn) Syn's existence becomes known to the AI Net which dispatches a copy of her former self to do away with the new flesh-and-blood Syn. $2.99

DC Comics

Adventures of Superman 622 (Joe Casey & Derec Aucoin) The chilling prophecy of the Minuteman comes to pass as children are turning to insects. . $2.25

Aquaman 12 (Rick Veitch & Yvel Guichet + Mark Propst) The first year of Aquaman concludes with a final battle that will leave Aquaman changed forever and have a dramatic effect on the city of Atlantis. $2.50

one-shot **Batgirl: Year One** (Scott Beatty + Chuck Dixon & Marcos Martin + Alvaro Lopez) *See Close-Up on previous page.*

one-shot **Batman: Child of Dreams** (Kia Asamiya) Adventure by manga artist Kia Asamiya featuring the World's Greatest Detective in action in both Gotham and Tokyo. 352pg b&w $19.95

Batman: Death and the Maidens 4 (Greg Rucka & Klaus Janson) Bruce must weigh the cost of Ra's al Ghul's incredible offer and determine whether he can accept making a deal with the devil. $2.95

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 173 (John Wagner & Chris Brunner) Batman confronts Rough Justice. Frustrated by the extreme methods of the group, Hellfire tries to leave. But the only way out is in a body bag. $2.50

Danger Girl: Viva Las Danger (Andy Hartnell + J. Scott Campbell & Phil Noto; *WildStorm)* Abbey Chase and fellow Danger Girls Sydney Savage and Silicon Valerie go to Sin City. All they want is to get a little rest, but it's just not in the cards. Variant cover. 48pg $4.95

The Demon: Driven Out 3 (Joshua Dysart & Pop Mhan + Art Thibert) Etrigan has found a new home with the Yakuza! Freed by an act of technological alchemy, the Demon is quick to make a bad situation worse by sparking a bloodbath on the turf of a black-sheep branch of the Yakuza. $2.50

Dr Fate 4 (Christopher Golden & Don Kramer + Prentis Rollins) The situation in Salem has gone from worse to Apocalyptic as the evil influence of The Curse spreads. $2.50

Elfquest: Wolfrider Vol 2 (various) Bearclaw's final days are recounted, leading to Cutter's assumption of the role of tribal chief. 216pg b&w .. $9.95

Fables 19 (Bill Willingham & Mark Buckingham + Steve Leialoha; *Vertigo)* A new storyline of espionage ignites when a hooded stranger comes to Fabletown asking a lot of questions. $2.50

Fallen Angel 5 *(Little Better Than A Beast* 3 of 4; Peter David & David Lopez + Fernando Blanco) Lee forms an uneasy alliance with Slate, who points her in the right direction to locate the killer. $2.50

Gen^{13} #15 (Chris Claremont & Ramón F. Bachs + Sandra Hope; *WildStorm)* The mystery of Caitlin's past deepens with a horrific massacre at a top-secret government facility and the return of an entity responsible for the deaths of the original Gen^{13} members. $2.95

Gotham Central 13 (Ed Brubaker + Greg Rucka & Michael Lark) The shadow of the Joker crosses the GCPD. A lone sniper terrorises Gotham City, and the detectives are always one step behind. $2.50

Green Arrow 32 (Judd Winick & Manuel Garcia + Steve Bird) In the aftermath of *Straight Shooter,* Oliver Queen is forced to ponder the momentous events that have befallen him while he heals. $2.50

H-E-R-O 10 *(A World Made of Glass* 2 of 2; Will Pfeifer & Kano) Now Tony Finch is dabbling in the supervillain game, will he wind up on top of the heap, or fitted for one of the special jackets they hand out at Arkham? $2.50

JSA 54 (Geoff Johns & Don Kramer + Keith Champagne) It's Thanksgiving and the JLA ventures once again to the JSA's Headquarters to give thanks – thanks that these teams don't get together more often. $2.50

The Legion 26 *(Foundations* 2 of 6; Dan Abnett + Andy Lanning & Chris Batista + Chip Wallace) As Superboy and the revived Live Wire try to assimilate to all that has happened to them, the Legion finds itself battling Darkseid's servants. $2.50

Nightwing 87 (Devin Grayson & Patrick Zircher + Andy Owens) Blockbuster turns up the heat in his personal war against Nightwing. But when danger strikes close to home, will Dick Grayson's life ever be the same? $2.25

Scooby-Doo 78 (Terrance Griep Jr + Rurik Tyler & Joe Staton + Dave Hunt) A ghostly gold miner stakes his claim up on Superstition Mountain! $2.25

Sgt Rock Archives Vol 2 (Bob Kanigher & Joe Kubert + Russ Heath; hbk) The war hero is back in a second hardcover archive that collects Our Army at War #97-110, originally published in 1960-1961. 216pg $49.95

The Spirit Archives Vol 12 (Will Eisner; hbk) Collects Spirit sections originally published between January 6, 1946 and June 30, 1946. 216pg . $49.95

Stormwatch: Team Achilles 17 (Micah Ian Wright & C.P. Smith; *WildStorm)* Santini and Team Achilles discover the location of Citizen Soldier's base of operations. $2.95

Superman & Batman: Generations III #11 (John Byrne; *Elseworlds)* It's the 29th century, and Lois Lane and Lana Lang have just arrived without a clue as to how they got there! $2.95

Teen Titans 5 (Geoff Johns & Mike McKone + Marlo Alquiza) Infighting reaches a whole new level with the Teen Titans as they struggle to save what's left of their team and friendship from Deathstroke. $2.50

Thundercats: Hammerhand's Revenge 2 (Fiona Avery & Carlos D'Anda; *WildStorm)* Lion-O has been captured, and it's up to the rest of the Thundercats to rescue him. $2.95

Two-Step 2 (Warren Ellis & Amanda Conner + Jimmy Palmiotti; *WildStorm)* The Quarry gang is ready to kill whoever took the case that contains Boss Quarry's most prized possession. $2.95

Marvel

Avengers 75 *(Search For She-Hulk* 4 of 4; Geoff Johns & Scott Kolins) The search is over – but the Avengers may not like what they've found, as a rampaging She-Hulk and her gamma-powered movie star cousin clash explosively. ... $2.25

Captain America 20 (Dave Gibbons & Lee Weeks; *Marvel Knights)* The Red Skull and the Nazi Army control the world after their victory in World War II. Can Captain America make the world right again? $2.99

Emma Frost 5 *(Higher Learning* 5 of 6; Karl Bollers & Randy Green) Emma's holiday is cut short as shocking secrets rock the Frost Family. What startling revelations could be so devastating that a family member is disowned? ... $2.50

Fantastic Four 506-507 *(Authoritative Action* 4 of 6; Mark Waid & Howard Porter) What inner demons are driving Reed Richards to the brink – and can the FF overcome them before the bombs start to rain down on Latveria? .. $2.25

Human Torch 8 *(Out* 2 of 2; Karl Kesel & Skottie Young; *Tsunami)* Things go from bad to worse as a foe from the past takes advantage of the confusion surrounding Johnny's sexual identity. $2.99

one-shot **Human Torch Vol 1: Burn** (Karl Kesel & Skottie Young) Though able to burst into living flames since that first fateful spaceflight that give birth to the Fantastic Four, today Johnny Storm is more fire-like than ever, capable of great warmth, and even greater fury. Collects Human Torch #1-6. 144pg $14.99

Incredible Hulk 63 *(Split Decisions* 4 of 6; Bruce Jones & Mike Deodato) The Hulk squares off against Krills. . $2.25

Iron Man 74 *(Best Defense* 2 of 6; John Jackson Miller & Jorge Lucas) Iron Man has to win confirmation, in a battle the likes of which the armoured avenger has never waged before. $2.99

Kingpin 6 *(Thug* 6 of 7; Bruce Jones & Sean Phillips) Lou Rocko emptied an entire clip into Wilson Fisk as he sat defenceless in a bathtub. The Kingpin has enough trouble getting out of a bathtub as it is – can he get out of this one? $2.50

Marvel 1602 #4 (Neil Gaiman & Andy Kubert; *Marvel Knights)* With the country in turmoil, Dr Strange learns Virginia Dare's dark secret, Peter Parquargh is captured by the X-Men, and Fury is placed in an impossible position. $3.50

one-shot **Marvel Masterworks: The Uncanny X-Men** Vol 1 (various) Wolverine, Storm, Nightcrawler and more of today's most popular X-Men make their historic debut. Collects Giant-Sized X-Men #1, X-Men (Vol 1) #94-100. 176pg $39.99

Nyx 2 (Joe Quesada & Josh Middleton) As the struggle to survive adolescence

Illuminations

Highlights from November's releases

Selected by Martin "Diff" Averre

Having looked at the releases for November shipping, there is not a single one to excite my retailer taste buds. The only one to come close is Marvel's **Wolverine: The End**. I see this as a big *What If* because, even if the Wolverine series should ever finish (an unlikely scenario anyway) Marvel will not kill him off. *What Ifs* sell, but not in a big way. **Sales 3/5 Quality 5/5**

What is very evident this month, from the plethora of excellent trade paperbacks and hardcover collections, is that Christmas is around the corner, just the time to spoil a loved one, or yourself, with a special not-so-little something. The top seller is bound to be DC's **JLA: Liberty and Justice**, the latest in the Alex Ross/Paul Dini collaborations. Despite the oversized dimensions (normally a sales killer) all previous volumes have sold as strongly as a comic on the same character, if not more. Judging by the advance art released this could be as strong as **Batman: War On Crime** – the best selling volume so far. To some extent the plot is – as usual – superfluous, no disrespect intended to Paul Dini's script, but the art is worth the price tag on its own. Alex Ross has surpassed himself this time, maybe to justify the sabbatical that he intends to take during 2004. If you want to see superheroes drawn in the most realistic fashion imagineable then plonk your £6.95 down for this, I certainly will. **Sales 5/5 Quality 5/5**

Coming a distant second from DC in sales potential will be **Batman: Detective No.27**, an Elseworlds hardcover. Set in 1929 young Bruce Wayne joins a secret society of crimefighters as... Detective number 27. Cornball but catchy, with atmospheric art by Peter Snejburg, movie producer Michael Uslan proves he can write comics too. **Sales 3/5 Quality 5/5**

The best seller from Image will be **Powers Vol.V: Anarchy**. Each volume so far has sold strongly on release and continues to sell well each month. This would be on our recommended list to customers anyway, but with Christmas fast approaching we will be touting volumes 1 to 4 as well. For latecomers Brian Bendis and Mike Oeming's wondrous little black and white comic basically concerns a world awash with superheroes and the backlash against them. Heroes are being murdered and our homicide detective heroes, mere ordinary folk, are trying to solve these most gruesome of crimes. **Sales 5/5 Quality 5/5**

Marvel, once averse to bothering with trade paperbacks, now churns them out at a great rate. Some of the trades have little value except for making early issues of new series available, for instance this month: Sentinel, Runaways, Mystique, Venom, Human Torch and Namor have their first collected volumes released. I doubt that they will last as many volumes as the current Garth Ennis Punisher series (volume 5: Streets Of Laredo is released this month), but their existence is good to enable latecomers to get those vital first four or six issues. What I have found is that the hard cover editions of the Ultimate Spider-Man, Incredible Hulk, Ultimate X-Men and Elektra to name a few are constantly in demand as a new style of collector is appearing; the 'Style'collector'. All they buy are these attractively packaged bookshelf pleasing volumes. Any retailer not stocking these is missing out and to be honest, if I had the money I would buy them too. The hardcovers generally feature only the best of the Marvel output and certainly look good. This month's output I'd rate as: **Sales 4/5 Quality 5/5**

After a good ten years out of favour **2000 AD** collections are flavour of the moment again. Each month Titan releases another one or two, this month **Judge Dredd Cursed Earth**. All the previous collections continue to sell well and with the festive season approaching retailers should stocked up on **JD Cursed Earth** and all the other classics from yesteryear. They have stood the test of time. **Sales 5/5 Quality 5/5**

becomes more intense, Alphabet City's newest mutant begins to understand how her powers can save her butt. ... $2.99

Punisher 35 *(Confederacy of Dunces* 3 of 5; Garth Ennis & John McCrea; *Marvel Knights)* Wolverine, Spider-Man, and Daredevil continue trying to take down the Punisher. $2.99

Punisher Vol 5: Streets of Laredo (Garth Ennis & Steve Dillon + various) The Punisher discovers a strange society that lives in the subway tunnels of New York and their tie to the rampant disappearance of homeless people. Collects Punisher #19 and #27-32. 168pg $17.99

Spectacular Spider-Man 6 *(Countdown* 1 of 5; Paul Jenkins & Humberto Ramos) Doc Ock is out to destroy Spider-Man once and for all but this time he's doing it in style. ... $2.25

Thanos Vol 3: Marvel Universe – The End (Jim Starlin; tpbk) A threat from beyond the fabric of time and space approaches our planet, forcing the greatest superheroes and villains of the cosmos to unite in opposition! Collects Marvel Universe: The End #1-6. 160pg .. $16.99

Ultimate Six 4 (Brian Michael Bendis & Trevor Hairsine) The Green Goblin wants to destroy SHIELD Director Nick Fury, so he engineers the spectacular assault on the Triskelion by the entire Sinister Six. $2.25

Ultimate X-Men 39 (Brian Michael Bendis & David Finch) The secret of Wolverine's would-be assassins is revealed. $2.25

X-Treme X-Men 34 *(Intifada* 4 of 5; Chris Claremont & Igor Kordey) Rogue and Gambit's return to the X-Treme team is anything but a family reunion. $2.99

ON SALE FROM

NOV 19

Dark Horse

one-shot **Autobiographix** (various; tpbk) Collection of short stories illustrating the effectiveness of the medium for telling the most personal of stories. 104pg b&w $14.95

one-shot **B.P.R.D.: There's Something Under My Bed** (Joe Harris & Adam Pollina) *See Close-Up, right.*

Grendel: God & The Devil 10 (Matt Wagner + John K. Snyder III & Jay Geldhof + Jeromy Cox) All the evil that man is capable of has taken the world hostage in the name of God. 48pg $4.99

Lone 3 (Stuart Moore & Jerome Opeña) Luke and her brother Mark thought that the worst was over. But on the way back to their hometown, they run into monsters the likes of which they never imagined. $2.99

one-shot **Mother, Come Home** (Paul Hornschemeier; tpbk) Hornschemeier's graphic novel debut – the tale of a father and son struggling, by varying degrees of escapism and fantasy, to come to terms with the death of the family's mother. 128pg $14.95

one-shot **Oh My Goddess!: Traveler** (Kosuke Fujishima; tpbk) It looks like Earthbound goddess Belldandy's powers are on the fritz – she can't even make a penny levitate! And to make matters worse, members of Earthling boyfriend Keiichi's motorcycle club come for a visit – with a bunch of junk for Keiichi to store, and now the crew is a bit short on space. Collecting issues #91-95 of the ongoing series. 256pg b&w $17.95

one-shot **Spyboy: The M.A.N.G.A. Affair** (Peter David & Pop Mhan + Norman Lee; tpbk) When Japan's premiere spy is both the nation's leading comedienne and an expert secret agent, it's often tricky to sneak away to spoil the latest evil villain's global plot – but SpyGirl does her best. Collecting the three-issue miniseries. 80pg $9.95

DC Comics

Arrowsmith 5 (Kurt Busiek & Carlos Pacheco + Jesús Meriño; *WildStorm)* Fletcher Arrowsmith has been hearing about atrocities since the war began. Now he finds out the truth. $2.95

Batgirl 46 (Dylan Horrocks & Rick Leonardi + Jesse Delperdang) Batgirl seeks out the source of the new designer drug, Soul, that's bringing chaos to the streets of Gotham City. $2.50

Batman Adventures 8 (Dan Slott + Ty Templeton & Rick Burchett + Terry Beatty) Batman faces off against the Black Mask! Whose side will the deadly Phantasm take? $2.25

Batman: Detective 27 (Michael Uslan & Peter Snejbjerg; *Elseworlds;* hbk) Bruce Wayne becomes a member of a secret society of detectives to battle the decades-old criminal conspiracy that left him an orphan. 96pg $19.95

Batman: Gotham Knights 47 (Scott Beatty + Judd Winick & various) Batman's decision to help Bane walk the path of the angels may come back to haunt him, as Bane has resurfaced in the Himalayas targeting the remnants of a Kobra base containing potentially devastating weapons. 40pg $2.75

Birds of Prey 61 (Gail Simone & Ed Benes + Alex Lei) Babs and Dinah must face the consequences of Oracle's decision last issue. And to make matters worse, the Birds are hunted by their most powerful foe yet: the US government. $2.50

Cinnamon: El Ciclo 4 (Jen Van Meter & Francisco Paronzini + Robert Campanella) A south LA slum that's home to a family of runaways goes up in flames, revealing a big secret. .. $2.50

Human Target 4 *(Take Me Out to the Ball Game* 1 of 2; Peter Milligan & Javier Pulido; *Vertigo)* A violent gambling syndicate threatens the reputation of one of New York's most revered baseball teams. $2.95

iCandy 3 (Dan Abnett + Andy Lanning & Kalman Andrasofszky) Matt's sister Candy is back with the power of a videogame character – and the trouble has just begun. $2.50

JLA: Liberty and Justice (Paul Dini & Alex Ross) The JLA must confront a threat from space in the form of a deadly virus that sets off a chain reaction of worldwide fear and panic. 96pg . $9.95

Kamikaze 2 (various; *WildStorm)* Stone helps Andy discover his inner strength, but at what cost? Will Stone ever be good enough to be invited to the Kamikaze? $2.95

The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen Book Two (Alan Moore & Kevin O'Neill; *America's Best Comics;* hbk) The distinguished cast of Victorian heroes – Allan Quatermain, Mina Harker, Captain Nemo, The Invisible Man, and Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde – once again answers the call of mother England to face the most unimaginable and fearsome foes ever: invaders from Mars. 228pg $24.95

one-shot **The Legion Secret Files 3003** (Dan Abnett + Andy Lanning & various) A profile of the 31st century's greatest heroes! Reflecting the events unfolding in the *Foundations* storyline, discover the Legion's secrets. 48pg $4.95

Lobo Unbound 4 (Keith Giffen & Alex Horley + Andy Kuhn) On the lawless planet of Dhabba Dhu, Bling-Bling the bounty hunter isn't the only one who's about to mess with Lobo's assassination plans. $2.95

Lucifer 44 *(Brothers in Arms* 3 of 3; Mike Carey & Peter Gross + Ryan Kelly; *Vertigo)* Sibling rivalry escalates as Lucifer confronts the wannabe Endless brothers, and an unlikely ally may be his only hope for survival. $2.50

Outsiders 6 (Judd Winick & ChrisCross + Sean Parsons) As the team attempts to shut down Blood's global satellite-activation system before he's able to activate his sleeper agents, an act of kindness could end the life of a hero. $2.50

The Possessed 5 (Geoff Johns + Kris Grimminger & Liam Sharp; *WildStorm)* The peaceful town of Iron Wood has been possessed. As the Possessed find themselves separated, sacrifices are made, blood is spilled, and the truth behind the team's existence and the purpose of possessions is revealed. $2.95

The Powerpuff Girls 44 (Sean Carolan + Jennifer Moore & Phil Moy) It's Townsville's cutest talking canine versus Townsville's freakiest superpowered feline in *Reigning Cats and Dogs.* $2.25

Robin 120 (Jon Lewis & Pete Woods + Andrew Pepoy) Robin must confront the dark fact that someone in the ranks is going to turn traitor in the years to come, plunging Gotham into a deadly war between heroes and vigilantes. . $2.25

Sleeper 11 (Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips; *WildStorm)* When a job goes wrong and a friend falls, Holden is captured. Now he must face up to the crimes he committed in the name of keeping his cover. $2.95

Smallville 5 (Mark Verheiden + Clint Carpenter & various) Learn where Clark Kent went when he sped off on his motorcycle to Metropolis, and exactly what he did when he got to the big city. 48pg $3.95

Smax 4 (Alan Moore & Zander Cannon + Andrew Currie; *America's Best Comics)* Neopolis police officer Jeff Smax and his partner Toybox are finally brought face-to-face with a monster from Smax's past: the hideous dragon known as Morningbright, killer of all things good and innocent. $2.95

new **Superman: The Kansas Sighting** 1 (J.M. DeMatteis & Jamie Tolagson) Surely Jor-El wouldn't have sent his only son to Earth without thoroughly checking the planet, right? Could he have sent probes to our world? 64pg $6.95

Superman: Metropolis 10 (Chuck Austen & Teddy Kristiansen) A day at the zoo in Metropolis is no picnic, as Killgrave has gained control of the Tech and let the inmates loose. $2.95

one-shot **Superman/ Thundercats** (Judd Winick & Alé Garza + Trevor Scott; *WildStorm)* While attempting to stop Mumm-Ra's mutants from retrieving another Eye of Thundera from an alternate dimension, the Thundercats are hurled into Metropolis! 48pg $5.95

one-shot **Transmetropolitan: The Cure** (Warren Ellis & Darick Robertson + Rodney Ramos; *Vertigo;* tpbk) Reprinting Transmetropolitan #49-54. Jerusalem and his cohorts step up their investigation into President Callahan's misdeeds and turn up some startling evidence. 144pg $14.95

Wonder Woman 198 (Greg Rucka & Drew Johnson + Ray Snyder) As the gods themselves respond to Wonder Woman's book, Diana's earthbound foes mount offensives of their own. .. $2.25

Marvel

new **Cable & Deadpool** 1 (Fabian Nicieza & Mark Brooks) Wade Wilson and Nathan Summers are back – and this time, they're stuck with each other. Can two grown men with deadly genetic weaponry live together without driving each other crazy? $2.99

Captain Marvel 16 *(Crazy Like A Fox* 2 of 4; Peter David & Paul Azaceta) Marv has targeted the Shi'ar and the Kree for termination, and they've brought the only force in the universe able to stop him. $2.99

Daredevil 54 *(Vision Quest* 4 of 5; David Mack; *Marvel Knights)* Can Wolverine help Echo find her place in the world? And what does this mean for Daredevil? $2.99

new **Doc Ock vs Spider-Man: Out of Reach** 1 (Colin Mitchell & Keron Grant) Doctor Octopus is once again in search of more power, and this time finds a sidekick in wonder kid Brigham Fontaine. $2.99

Gun Theory 4 (Daniel Way & Jon Proctor; *Epic)* Time has run out for Harvey. $2.50

Hawkeye 2 (Fabian Nicieza & Stefano Raffaele) Will stirring a beehive of life's losers lead Hawkeye to solving the problem – or will it get him stung? $2.99

Hulk: Gray 3 (Jeph Loeb & Tim Sale; *Marvel Knights)* The Hulk is on the run from the military. Who can he turn to in his time of need? $3.50

Incredible Hulk Vol 2 (Bruce Jones & Stuart Immonen + Mike Deodato Jr; hbk) Already on the run from the police and the US government, Dr Bruce Banner and his brutish alter ego face an even deadlier pursuer – a clandestine force with a secret agenda all their own. Collects Incredible Hulk Vol 3 and Vol 4. 288pg $29.99

Marvel Masterworks: The Mighty Thor Vol 3 (various) The Thunder God faces the rampaging power of the Incredible Hulk, tackles the fighting mad Gray Gargoyle, and grapples with the awesome Absorbing Man and his creator, Loki, in a battle that will lead to the staggering Trial of the Gods. Collects Journey Into Mystery #111-120 and Annual #1. 256pg $49.99

Namor 9 (Andi Watson + Bill Jemas & Pat Olliffe; *Tsunami)* While Namor and Sandy fall deeper in love, something is threatening to destroy Atlantis. .. $2.99

new **Namor Vol 1: Sea and Sand** (Andi Watson + Bill Jemas & Salvador Larroca; tpbk) Beneath the waves, well out of sight from human land dwellers, lies the undersea empire of Atlantis, and its heir is a young hero who yearns for the world above water even as he struggles to maintain his undersea birthright. Collects Namor #1-6. 144pg ... $12.99

New X-Men 149 *(Planet X* #4 of 5; Grant Morrison & Phil Jimenez) Professor Xavier and his X-Men make their final stand against their most powerful foe. $2.25

Runaways 8 *(Teenage Wasteland* 2 of 4; Brian K. Vaughan & Adrian Alphona; *Tsunami)* The Runaways welcome a new member into their fold, but will this dashing young man help the teenagers defeat their villainous parents – or tear the team apart? $2.99

close-up

B.P.R.D.: There's Something Under My Bed

Dark Horse

Writer: Joe Harris

Artist: Adam Pollina

Children have been disappearing from their bedrooms under odd circumstances. The kids find cold comfort from fisherman Abe Sapien and the disembodied ghost of Johann Kraus – but when the innocent fantasy world of monsters and magic they used to enjoy becomes engulfed in terror and nightmares, the strangers who show up to help don't seem so bad after all. $2.99

ON SALE NOVEMBER 19

new **Runaways Vol 1: Pride & Joy** (Brian K. Vaughan & Jo Chen; tpbk) Alex, Karolina, Gert, Chase, Molly and Nico are six young friends who discover their parents are all secretly supervillains. Collects Runaways #1-6. 144pg $14.99

Thor 71 (Dan Jurgens & Scot Eaton) Not everything is wonderful in Thor's utopia of the future, and while new friendships flourish for the visitor from the present, the truth he's discovering threatens to tear everything apart. $2.99

Uncanny X-Men 433 (Chuck Austen & Philip Tan) As the truth of Nightcrawler's family comes to light, this young mutant will face the most dangerous of decisions. $2.25

Wolverine 8 *(Coyote Crossing* 2 of 7; Greg Rucka & Leandro Fernandez) In a dusty border town on the edge of Mexico, Logan chances upon a grisly discovery that begs for his unique brand of justice. $2.25

X-Treme X-Men 35 *(Intifada* 5 of 5; Chris Claremont & Igor Kordey) Rogue and Gambit's return to the X-Treme team is anything but a family reunion. $2.99

ON SALE FROM

NOV 26

close-up

The Devil's Footprints

Dark Horse

Writers: Scott Allie + Paul Lee

Artists: Brian Horton + Dave Stewart

When William Waite died, after a life steeped in black magic, his family thought the terror was over. Two years later, the people close to him begin to suffer from illnesses, including the loss of a baby. Brandon Waite, desperate to protect his family, digs into his dead father's bag of tricks. His desire to protect his loved ones forces him to cover up his own steps into witchcraft. 144pg .. $14.95

ON SALE NOVEMBER 26

Dark Horse

Astro Boy Vol 21 (Osamu Tezuka; tpbk) Innovative, exciting, fresh graphic fiction for readers of all ages. b&w $9.95

Buffy the Vampire Slayer 63 *(A Stake to the Heart* 4 of 6; Fabian Nicieza & Cliff Richards) After her parents' divorce, Buffy's arrival in Sunnydale is made even more painful by the return of the Malignancy Demons that were accidentally set upon her by Angel. $2.99

The Chronicles of Conan Vol 2: Tower of the Elephant & Other Stories (Roy Thomas & Barry Windsor-Smith; tpbk) Compiles the early Conan the Barbarian stories by Roy Thomas and Barry Windsor-Smith, featuring remastered colour and text corrections. 160pg $15.95

Crush 2 (Jason Hall & Sean Murphy) After fending off three attackers and accidentally trashing Carl's motorcycle, Liz Mason brainstorms with Carl and Jen about the scary metamorphosis she undergoes when transforming into the awesome, beastial Crush. $2.99

one-shot **The Devil's Footprints** (Scott Allie + Paul Lee & Brian Horton + Dave Stewart; tpbk) *See Close-Up, above.*

one-shot **Fray: Future Slayer** (Joss Whedon & Karl Moline + Andy Owens; tpbk) Hundreds of years in the future, Manhattan has become a deadly slum, run by mutant crime-lords and disinterested cops. Stuck in the middle is a young girl who thought she had no future, but learns she has a great destiny. 216pg ... $19.95

Go Boy 7: Human Action Machine 5 (Jon Sommariva & Kris Justice) Jonny's life is one adventure after another as he joins Jett Girl and the rest of the robotic Go Boys on dangerous adventures to help fight the evil of The Cultist. $2.99

new **Hellboy: Weird Tales Vol One** (various; tpbk) Accumulation of backup stories from over the years of Hellboy. Collects issues #1-4. 128pg $17.95

Super Manga Blast! 37 (various) Action and intrigue abound in this month's *Seraphic Feather*, as M-Zak tracks down a group of sinister kidnappers. 128pg b&w $5.99

Ultraman Tiga 4 (Tony Wong & Khoo Fuk Lung) When an infestation of diminutive, egg-laying beasts erupts into a full-scale mammoth mutant invasion, even the combined might of Ultraman Tiga and the Global Unlimited Task Squad might not be enough to keep it at bay. 40pg $3.99

Usagi Yojimbo 71 (Stan Sakai) Recounts a formative event in young Katsuichi's life when, as a student, he courted the daughter of the master of a rival sword school. 24pg b&w .. $2.99

DC Comics

one-shot **Aquaman: The Water Bearer** (Rick Veitch & various; tpbk) Collects Aquaman #1-4 and the lead story from Aquaman Secret Files. In the aftermath of the Obsidian Age, Aquaman is now hated by his former subjects and exiled from the life-giving ocean he once called home. 128pg $12.95

Astro City: Local Heroes 5 (Kurt Busiek & Brent Anderson; *WildStorm)* A look at the nature of heroism, of reality itself, and at what went wrong in Astro City in the 1970s. The Blue Knight is on the loose, the bodies are piling up, and a young lawyer is caught up in the case of a lifetime – a case that could end his life. $2.95

Batman 621 *(Broken City* 2 of 6; Brian Azzarello & Eduardo Risso) Batman continues the hunt for the man who killed a boy's parents in Gotham's underground, with the help of Gotham Central's Detective Crispin Allen. $2.25

Caper 2 (Judd Winick & Farel Dalrymple) Hitman Jacob Weiss is on the wrong side of a love triangle. The woman Jacob loves is being pursued by the mob boss he works for – the same mob boss who just had her husband killed! $2.95

Catwoman 25 (Ed Brubaker & Paul Gulacy + Jimmy Palmiotti) Things in East End have taken a turn for the worse, and a gang war is brewing. $2.50

Cartoon Cartoons 24 (Jesse McCann + Michael Kraiger & various) Cow and Chicken go on a treasure hunt, while Ed Edd & Eddy explore the sewers of suburbia. $2.25

one-shot **Catwoman: Crooked Little Town** (Ed Brubaker & Brad Rader + Cameron Stewart; tpbk) Collects Catwoman #5-10 and Catwoman Secret Files. Holly uses her street-savvy skills to help Catwoman get to the bottom of a new spread of drugs – only to find herself in danger and ultimately wanted by the police! 168pg $14.95

new **Elfquest Archives** Vol 1 (Wendy Pini + Richard Pini & Wendy Pini) The *Fire & Flight* story is presented with new lettering and colour in this 216-page volume reprinting the first five issues of the original Elfquest series. 216pg $49.95

Empire 5 (Mark Waid & Barry Kitson + James Pascoe) A surprising key player in the Empire's rise to power is revealed, dividing Golgoth's attention between engineering the future and avenging the past. $2.50

The Flash 204 *(Ignition* 4 of 6; Geoff Johns & Alberto Dose) As the rash of police officers frozen to death continues, someone close to Wally West becomes the next target! $2.25

one-shot **Green Arrow: Archer's Quest** (Brad Meltzer & Phil Hester + Ande Parks; hbk) Collects Green Arrow #16-21. The Emerald Archer is back from the dead, and with his adopted son Arsenal in tow, he's setting off on an adventure that will test his courage and bring formerly hidden facets of the Green Arrow legend to light. 176pg $19.95

Green Lantern 171 *(Wanted* 1 of 5; Ben Raab & James Bosch + Rodney Ramos) Kyle Rayner's crusade to restore order to Sector 2814 takes a dangerous turn when he goes undercover to infiltrate the Black Circle Syndicate and destroy this interplanetary mafia from within. $2.25

Hellblazer 190 *(Staring at the Wall* 2 of 5; Mike Carey & Marcelo Frusin; *Vertigo)* With one of his reluctant allies dead before the battle is joined, the omens are bad for John's face-off with the shadow dog. $2.75

The Legion 27 *(Foundations* 3 of 6; Dan Abnett + Andy Lanning & Chris Batista + Chip Wallace) Superboy makes his first public appearance as religious fervour ramps up and Worshippers of Darkness attack the Church of the Last Son. $2.50

The Losers 6 (Andy Diggle & Jock; *Vertigo)* There's a quarter of a billion dollars on the line for the Losers, and it all comes down to a hellbent-for-leather race against time through the George Bush International Airport cargo terminal. $2.95

Reign of the Zodiac 4 (Keith Giffen & Colleen Doran + Bob Wiacek) In a race to capture the illicit lovers who've escaped to Earth, the Houses of Aries, Capricorn and Virgo all rush for access to a powerful Boot Portal. $2.75

Superman 199 (Steven T. Seagle & Scott McDaniel + Andy Owens) The true origins of the new Supergirl are explored, as the city of Metropolis goes crazy. $2.25

Superman/Batman 4 (Jeph Loeb & Ed McGuinness + Dexter Vines) Captain Atom gathers the team of heroes hand-picked by President Luthor to bring in the fugitive Superman and Batman. $2.95

new **Teen Titans Go!** 1 (J. Torres & Todd Nauck + Lary Stucker) Join Robin and his band of teenage heroes: The brave Cyborg, funny guy Beast Boy, the naïve Starfire, and the moody goth-girl Raven as they battle for truth, justice and pizza. $2.25

Wildcats Version 3.0 #16 (Joe Casey & Dustin Nguyen + Richard Friend; *WildStorm)* As a mysterious new assassin sets out on the ultimate hit, the continuing actions of the Halo Corporation get the attention of certain government figures. $2.95

Marvel

Amazing Spider-Man 501 (J. Michael Straczynski & John Romita Jr) The drive to Amazing Spider-Man 1000 starts here. $2.25

Avengers 76 (Geoff Johns & Steve Sadowski) Geoff Johns ends his run as scribe as an Avenger falls. $2.25

Crimson Dynamo 4 (John Jackson Miller & Steve Ellis; *Epic)* The renegade Crimson Dynamo and its hunters converge on Moscow. $2.50

The Eternal 6 (Chuck Austen & Kev Walker; *MAX Comics)* A devastating clash between Eternals and Celestials leaves no one unchanged. $2.99

Fantastic Four 507 *(Authoritative Action* 5 of 6; Mark Waid & Howard Porter) What inner demons are driving Reed Richards to the brink – and can the Four overcome them before the bombs start to rain down on Latveria? .. $2.25

Hulk: Nightmerica 6 (Robin Laws & Brian Ashmore) Revelations abound as the terrible genetic secrets of the Nightmerica experiments are finally revealed. $2.99

Inhumans 7 (Sean McKeever & Rob Teranishi; *Tsunami)* San finds love in the unlikeliest of places. Has someone actually seen the young Inhuman for who he really is – or is there something far less innocent going on? $2.99

JLA 90 (Joe Kelly & ChrisCross + Tom Nguyen) Batman and Wonder Woman resolve their conflicted feelings for each other, for better or worse. $2.25

JLA/Avengers 3 (Kurt Busiek & George Perez) The Avengers and the JLA have confronted their foemen – now it's time to party! 48pg $5.95

one-shot **Marvels 10th Anniversary Hardcover** (Kurt Busiek & Alex Ross) Witness the birth of the Marvel Universe through the eyes of the proverbial man in the street – Daily Bugle photographer Phil Sheldon. 240pg $29.99

Marvel Masterworks: The Fantastic Four Vol 4 (various) Featuring the origin of Doctor Doom, the return of Sue and Johnny's father, the FF side-by-side with Sub-Mariner and the birth of Dragon Man. Collects Fantastic Four (Vol 1) #31-40 and Annual #2. 272pg $49.99

Mystique 8 *(Tinker, Tailor, Mutant, Spy* 2 of 3; Brian K. Vaughan & Michael Ryan; *Tsunami)* Mystique continues her mission to find and destroy a deadly new strain of smallpox. $2.99

new **Mystique Vol 1: Dead Drop Gorgeous** (Brian K. Vaughan & Jorge Lucas) Mystique the sultry mutant shapeshifter is offered the chance at a new life when Professor X recruits her to complete a dangerous mission in Cuba. Collects Mystique #1-6. 144pg $14.99

Punisher 36 *(Confederacy of Dunces* 4 of 5; Garth Ennis & John McCrea; *Marvel Knights)* Wolverine, Spider-Man, and Daredevil continue trying to take down the Punisher. $2.99

Silver Surfer 3 *(Communion* 3 of 6; Stacy Weiss + Dan Chariton & Lan Medina) Denise Waters delves further into the mystery of her missing daughter as the Surfer's plan begins to take form. $2.25

Spectacular Spider-Man 7 *(Countdown* 2 of 5; Paul Jenkins & Humberto Ramos) Doc Ock is out to destroy Spider-Man once and for all but this time he's doing it in style. ... $2.25

Supreme Power 4 (J. Michael Straczynski & Gary Frank; *MAX Comics)* Who is the Whizzer and what does he have to do with Hyperion? $2.99

Thor: Vikings 5 (Garth Ennis & Glenn Fabry; *MAX Comics)* Thor and Dr Strange have gone back in time to put a team together in hopes of defeating the horrible Zombie Vikings that are laying siege to Manhattan! $3.50

Trouble 5 (Mark Millar & Terry Dodson; *Epic)* The conclusion of the miniseries as a blessed event changes the lives of May, Ben, Richard and Mary forever. ... $2.99

Ultimates 13 (Mark Millar & Bryan Hitch) Will the alien invasion finally succeed or will the full firepower of the Ultimates be enough to stem the tide? $2.25

Uncanny X-Men 434 (*The Draco* 6; Chuck Austen & Philip Tan) As the truth of Nightcrawler's family comes to light, this young mutant will face the most dangerous of decisions. $2.25

Venom 8 *(Run* 3 of 5; Daniel Way & Paco Medina; *Tsunami)* Guest-starring Wolverine. $2.25

new **Venom Vol 1: Shiver** (Daniel Way & Francisco Herrera; tpbk) Venom's back and has popped up near the Arctic Circle, leaving a trail of dead bodies in his wake. Collects Venom #1-5. 120pg $11.99

Weapon X #16 *(Defection* 2 of 4; Frank Tieri & Georges Jeanty) An X-Man has betrayed Xavier's dream and thrown in with the scoundrels of Weapon X. Who is it and why – and what do the X-Men intend to do about it? $2.99

Weapon X Vol 2: Underground (Frank Tieri & Georges Jeanty; tpbk) Led by Cable, the Underground is determined to destroy the Director's evil plans and make sure that the Weapon X program is taken out. Collects Weapon X #6-13. 184pg $19.99

Wolverine Legends Vol 5: Snikt! (Tsutomu Nihei; tpbk) Alone in a barren wasteland inhabited by robotic, parasitic organisms, the X-Men's most lethal member devolves further and further into his true, savage, berserker state with each battle. Collects Wolverine: Snikt! #1-5. 120pg $13.99

X-Statix 16 *(Back from the Dead* 4 of 5; Peter Milligan & Mike Allred) The X-Statix and their new team leader – a certain resurrected Princess – just might have bitten off more than they can chew, when they set their sights on uncovering a terrorist conspiracy whose roots cut too close to home. $2.99

RELEASED AND ON SALE IN

NOVEMBER

Aardvark-Vanaheim

Cerebus 295 *(Latter Days* 29 of 35; Dave Sim & Gerhard) Cerebus continues to be supremely aggravated by Le Sanctuaire de Rick et Joanne Lesbiennes de Upper Felda. 24pg b&w $2.25

Cerebus Vol 15: Latter Days (Dave Sim & Gerhard; tpbk) Includes *This Aardvark, This Shepherd* as well as the Three Wise Fellows, Moshie, Loshi and Koshie. 232pg b&w $30.00

Abstract Studios

Strangers in Paradise Vol 13: Flower To Flame (Terry Moore; tpbk) Collects issues #55-60. After going their separate ways, Francine and Katchoo try to rebuild their lives, with Francine making wedding plans and Katchoo painting. 144pg $15.95

Amaze Ink/ Slave Labor

Bombaby: The Screen Goddess 1 (of 4; Antony Mazzotta) Sangeeta is the reincarnation of India's ancient protector. Can this young woman make a difference in a male dominated society? 24pg $3.50

Evenfall 5 (Pete Stathis) Phoebe's fate is sealed when she finds herself stranded in the dangerous fantasy realm of Zokomaya. Has she been condemned forever to a gloomy underworld, or is Zokomaya something else altogether? 24pg .. $2.95

Seamonsters & Superheroes 1 (of 3; Scott Mills) New series from Ignatz award-winning cartoonist Scott Mills. 24pg $2.95

Tupelo 3 (Matt De Gennaro & Phil Elliott) Is it curtains for the curious captain as he is captured by The Lullabye Squad and carted off to Bellevue? Mature readers. $2.95

Antarctic Press

new **Assembly** 1 (Sherard Jackson) In a totalitarian future, military service guarantees food and housing. Shon believes enlisting is the only option to solve her financial troubles. But, oh the consequences! b&w $2.99

Gold Digger 47 (Fred Perry) With the help of the Iron Dragon clan, Gina invades the Arduous. $2.99

Luftwaffe 1946 #14 (Ted Noumra & various) The Nazis introduce their V-3 V-4 weapons as a prelude to attacking the US. 48pg b&w $5.95

Neotopia Vol 2 #5 (of 6; Rod Espinosa) For the first time, the remnants of the Mathenian royal navy fight against the might of General Kaizler's armada. $2.99

Ninja High School 111 (Katie Bair) Tetsuo has returned with a fiendish plot to ruin Yumei's life. Is there any way Yumei can survive? b&w $3.50

Ninja High School Pocket Manga Vol 1 (Ben Dunn; tpbk) Jeremy Feeple's an average high school student in Quagmire. But then two ladies become intent on marrying him, and things go a bit wobbly. 128pg b&w $9.99

Rehd 2 (Sam Lofti) Caleb Gray's suburban security is shattered as he is abducted. Dragged through the dangerous realms of the Khardenth an Syntheon worlds of high society and super-sorcery, Caleb's denial of the exposed truth drives him into a frenzy. b&w $2.99

Warrior Nun Areala 22 (Craig Babiar) A frantic Areala desperately tries to track down Father Crowe, whose life is threatened by the black voodoo of evil Straw Jack. b&w $3.50

Avatar

Alan Moore's Yugoth Cultures 2 (Alan Moore & Jacen Burrows + Mike Wolfer) Collection of Moore's sequential short stories, long since out of print. Mature readers. Variant cover. 40pg $3.95

new **Joe Lansdale's Drive-in** 1 (of 4; Joe Lansdale & Andres Guinaldo) When a group of friends decides to spend a day at the world's largest Drive-In theatre horror-fest, they expected to see tons of bloody murder – but only on-screen! Mature. $3.50

Bongo Comics

Heroes Anonymous 3 (Gimple + Morrison & Pepoy) Melody has some secrets from her fiance. She has a silly crush on the Barista that makes her morning latte. She writes popular science fiction erotica under an assumed name. And, oh yeah, she's the heir to the mantle of a superheroinehood of unimaginable power. $2.99

Radioactive Man 8 (Lash & Morrison) The film that put Springfield Tourism and Film Production Office on the map and bankrupted a major Hollywood studio is ready for release, and Bongo Comics is pleased to present the long awaited official movie adaptation. $2.99

Simpsons Comics 88 (Simone & Costanza) The Simpsons head for the shores of Scotland with Groundskeeper Willie in tow, but it is not a happy homecoming from Springfield's favourite Scot. $2.99

CG Entertainment

Brath 10 (Chuck Dixon & Andrea Di Vito + Roland Paris) It's all-out action when Brath fights as a gladiator! The crowd may love him, but the Emperor wants the Man-Killer dead! $2.95

Brian Pulido's Lady Death: A Medieval Tale #10 (Brian Pulido & Ivan Reis + Marc Campos; *Code 6)* Lady Death and Wolf are lost in the borderlands – and at the mercy of cannibalistic flesh merchants! .. $2.95

new **Chimera** Vol 1 (Ron Marz & Brandon Peterson) A vast intergalactic empire seeks immortality, and they'll stop at nothing – including destruction on a planetary scale – to achieve it! 160pg $15.95

The Crossovers #11 (Robert Rodi & Joe Staton + Ernie Colon; *Code 6)* On a quest to find a home for Gargantu Juan, The Crossovers travel to the most unexpected destination of all! $2.95

Crux 32 (Chuck Dixon & Sergio Cariello + Rob Hunter) The elder named Udates wants to bring order to the legendary city of Atlantis – but Capricia and Galvan stand in his way! $2.95

Crux Vol. 4: Chaos Reborn (Chuck Dixon & Steve Epting + Rick Magyar) The human race has vanished without a trace! Awakened from a decades-long sleep, six powerful Atlanteans must solve the mystery – but will the legendary warrior known as Aristophanes bring their salvation or their doom? Reprinting Crux #19-24. ..... $15.95

El Cazador 3 (Chuck Dixon & Steve Epting) Meet Redhand Harry, privateer and pirate hunter! He'll be Captain Sin's gravest challenge – if he can survive the French gallows! $2.95

The First 37 (Barbara Kesel & Andy Smith + Brad Vancata) Atwaal returns – and the first of the First will change Elysia and its mighty inhabitants forever! $2.95

new **Lady Death** Vol 1 (Brian Pulido & Ivan Reis + Marc Campos; *Code 6)* Into the darkness of a medieval world comes a ghost-haired woman bearing the sword of vengeance! She is Lady Death, half-human, half-Eldritch – and hunted by both races! Reprints Lady Death #1-6. 192pg $9.95

Meridian #42 (Barbara Kesel & Greg Tocchini + Ron Randall) Deep within Sheristan, Sephie learns an important secret about the Sigils! $2.95

Meridian Traveler Vol 4 *(Coming Home;* Barbara Kesel & Steve McNiven + Tom Simmons) Pushed by the memory of Turos, Sephie battles her scheming uncle Ilahn – and someone's not walking away! Reprinting Meridian #21-26. 160pg $9.95

Meridian Vol. 6: Changing Course (Barbara Kesel & Steve McNiven + Tom Simmons) Will Sephie, still growing into the role of a global guardian, find a new love – and is Jad really dead? Reprints Meridian #33-38! 160pg $15.95

Mystic 42 (Tony Bedard & Aaron Lopresti + Matt Ryan) Giselle once again journeys to the prehistoric realm for a team-up with the wise and woolly Yeti. $2.95

Negation 24 (Tony Bedard & Paul Pelletier + Dave Meikis) Obregon Kaine and the fugitives take on Javi and his squad of Negation Sigil-Bearers in a fight to the death. $2.95

The Path 21 (Ron Marz & Matthew Smith + Mark Pennington) The bumbling thief and his talking mentor monkey are here to steal Obo-san's all-powerful Weapon of Heaven! $2.95

The Path Traveler Vol 2: Blood on Snow (Ron Marz & Bart Sears + Mark Pennington) As merciless invaders advance across the countryside, Obo-san – the former monk who swore revenge upon the gods – must decide exactly where his true loyalties lie! Reprints The Path #7-12. 160pg $9.95

Rob Zombie's Spook Show International 2 (of 5; Rob Zombie & various) Freed from his eternal slumber, the Evil Zombie unleashes his wrath on all who cross his path! Mature readers. $2.95

Route 666 #18 (Tony Bedard & Jim Cheung) In a creepy coastal fishing village, a waterlogged horror awaits Cassie and Officer Cisco. $2.95

Ruse 26 (Scott Beatty & Butch Guice + Michael Perkins) Far from the bustling streets of Partington, our detective duo have retrieved the mysterious gem from its murderous minions – but are Simon and Emma in possession of the terrifying talisman – or possessed by it? $2.95

Scion 42 (Ian Edginton & Luke Ross + John Dell) As the mighty kingdoms are pounded under the onslaught of the Tigris war machine, which Heron makes the ultimate sacrifice? $2.95

Sigil 42 (Chuck Dixon & Dale Eaglesham + Andrew Hennessy) Trapped on a Saurian world that's been conquered by the Negation, Loser and Vega face an even deadlier threat – each other! $2.95

Sojourn 29 (Ian Edginton & Greg Land + Jay Leisten) Washed ashore on another strange island, our intrepid trio finds itself surrounded by hot-blooded heartbreakers! $2.95

Sojourn Traveler Vol. 2: The Dragon's Tale (Ron Marz & Greg Land + Jay Leisten) On the hunt for a piece of the weapon that will bring down the malevolent Mordath, the avenging archers Arwyn and Gareth dare a dragon's rage! Reprints Sojourn #7-12. 160pg $9.95

Solus 9 (Barbara Kesel & Leonard Kirk + Andrew Pepoy) Hunting for her identity, Andra finally meets Danik, and when two superpowers collide, the truth emerges! $2.95

new **Solus Vol 1: Genesis** (Barbara Kesel & George Pérez + Rick Magyar) Andra Radiant is trying to put the pieces of her life back together – trouble is, they're located on different planets! Reprints Solus #1-6! 160pg $15.95

Tales of the Realm 2 (of 6; Robert Kirkman & Matt Tyree) With their sights set on landing glamorous movie careers, our heroic trio ditch their TV gigs and set out to rescue kidnapped director Kyle Stifotel and take Hollywood by storm! $2.95

Way of the Rat 19 (Chuck Dixon & Wil Rosado) Judge X'ain seeks to gain power over the cursed city of Zhumar, and even the grave won't stop him! $2.95

Way of the Rat Traveler Vol. 1: The Walls of Zhumar (Chuck Dixon & Jeff Johnson + Tom Ryder) The bumbling Boon Sai Hong merely wishes to stay a thief, but destiny – and a talking monkey named Po Po – know he can be a hero! This volume reprints Way of the Rat #1-6. 160pg $9.95

Claypool

Elvira 127 (various) Dracula's daughter Vladia wants to get married – at Elvira's Vegas stage show – but what about the local madman who's kidnapping vampires? b&w $2.50

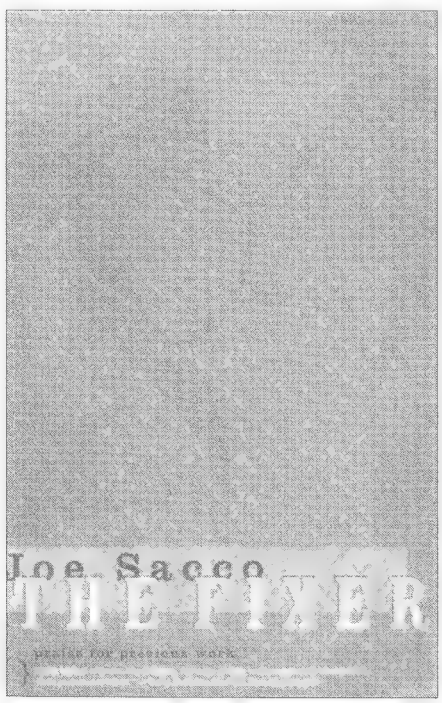
Soulsearchers 63 (Peter David & John Heebink + Al Milgrom) To save the Weasel Band, newlyweds Bridget and Baraka travel to the foggy backstreets of London's Whitechapel, where Bridget and the mystery villain play a deadly game of *tag,* in *A Ripping Good Time!* b&w $2.50

close-up

The Fixer

Drawn & Quarterly

Writer/Artist: Joe Sacco



Joe Sacco takes us to the dying days of Balkan conflict and introduces us to a fixer – a man looking to squeeze the last bit of profit from Bosnia before the reconstruction begins. Thanks to the Fixer, Joe discovers the crimes of opportunistic warlords and gangsters who run the countryside in times of war. A decade later, Joe meets up with his fixer to see how the government has dealt with these criminals. Mature readers. 140pg b&w $24.95

ON SALE NOVEMBER

Drawn & Quarterly

one-shot **Fair Weather** (Joe Matt) Young Joe Matt is a selfish whiny child. He steals from shops, takes advantage of his friends, and bullies those weaker than himself. Mature readers. 128pg b&w $16.95

one-shot **The Fixer** (Joe Sacco) *See Close-Up on previous page.*

Dreamwave

new **Duel Masters** 1 (various) Thanks to his mysterious and missing father, Shobu has an unexpected edge in the card games, for he alone can directly access the Zone, a dimensional realm where mythical and mystical battles are fought between wild beings to the finish. $2.95

one-shot **Drew Struzan: Oeuvre** (Drew Struzan) Over the last 30 years, Drew's art has touched generations of film-goers with unforgettable images for Star Wars, Indiana Jones, Harry Potter, and hundreds more. $59.95

Mega Man 3 (Brian Augustyn & Mic Fong) At Mega Man's darkest hour, a mysterious, masked ally reveals himself and joins the battle at the Blue Bomber's side. $2.95

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 6 (Peter David & LeSean) Has everything the Turtles believed about themselves been a lie? Forget what you knew thought you knew about Leo, Raph, Mike, and Don, as a terrible secret threatens to tear the team apart. $2.95

one-shot **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** (Peter David & LeSean; tpbk) Collects issues #1-4 of the series, plunging the Turtles back into their dark and mysterious ninja roots. $9.95

Transformers: Armada 17 (Simon Furman & Don Figueroa) As Optimus Prime faces doomsday on a Cybertron not his own, so Jetfire stands ready on Armada Cybertron for one last, desperate attempt to avert the coming of Chaos. $2.95

Transformers/GI Joe 4 (John Ney Rieber & Jae Lee) The Joes and the Autobots face overwhelming Decepticon power as they struggle to establish a beach head for the US invasion force, little suspecting that there'll be no reinforcements, thanks to the treacherous Zartan. $2.95

Transformers: More Than Meets the Eye 8 (Adam Patyk & various) See the origins of Combiner and Pretender technologies, the secrets of Unicron, and a tour of Cybertron and its history. 64pg $5.25

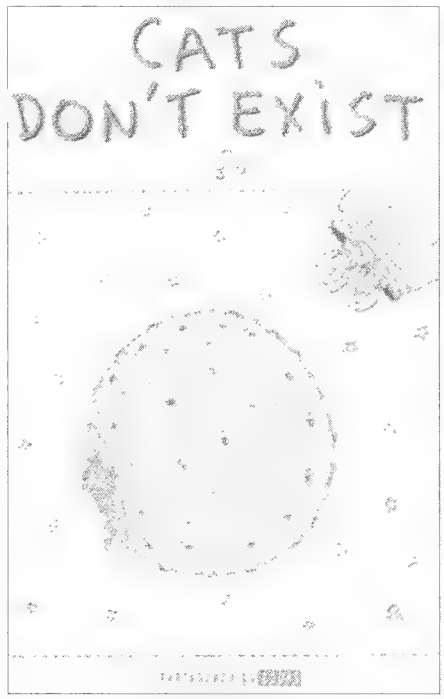
Transformers: The War Within Vol 2 #2 (Simon Furman & Andrew Wildman) Who or what is The Fallen? And why are certain Transformers, among them Grimlock, squarely in his sights? $2.95

El Capitan

Stray Bullets 36 (David Lapham) Travel back to a time of shoguns and warlords, when skill and discipline were a way of life. Amy doesn't care about that. She's got a couple to save, and she'll do it by any means necessary. Mature readers. b&w $3.50

Fantagraphics

one-shot **Ape** (Ted Jouflas) Satire of contemporary America fusing the Bush Administration with the black and white horror films of the 1930's. Mature readers. b&w $4.95



close-up

Cats Don't Exist

Fantagraphics Books

Writer/Artist: Jis

Mexican artist Jis makes his mainstream debut. With a childlike mastery of the obvious, an inspired sense of mischief, and hilarious insight into the human divine, this comic echoes Jules Feiffer and Terence McKenna. Collects a handful of comic stories and drawings that nudge you into a dissonant universe. Includes *Cats Don't Exist*, which introduces a world where cats replace the bogeyman of the human psyche. Mature readers. 96pg b&w $12.95

ON SALE NOVEMBER

new **Bellybutton** 1 (Sophie Crumb) Vivacious autobiographical stories of a woman living her early 20s in Paris, with stories of young love, cell phones, and sexual frustration. Mature readers. $4.95

one-shot **Cats Don't Exist** (Jis) *See Close-Up, above.*

one-shot **Decadence: 300 Years of Japanese Fetish Art** (Davis Bromwell) Survey of Ukiyo-e poster art, which was a genre of Japanese wood block prints of the ancient Edo period (1600-1867) that continue to inspire and inform creators of Japanese manga and anime. It' the Shunga prints that everyone turns to, you know. 96pg $24.95

Evil Eye 11 (Richard Sala) This issue features flesh eating babies, 200 year-old serial killers and toxic, blood-sucking slime creatures who live in the deep end of the public pool. Mature readers. 24pg b&w $3.50

Hate Annual 4 (Peter Bagge) Features the continuing twists and turns in the life of one Buddy Bradley. In this episode Buddy gets fed up with the ups and down of being an entrepreneur and decides to opt for the security of a corporate job – driving a delivery truck. Mature readers. 48pg $4.95

one-shot **Jimbo in Purgatory** (Gary Panter) Jimbo is the protagonist of a reinterpretation of Dante's *Purgatorio*, replete with pop references regularly injected throughout the captions of the cantos. 40pg b&w $29.95

Love and Rockets Vol II #9 (Los Bros Hernandez) Meet the Chascarrillos! There's Maggie, her wacky sister Esther, their goofy brothers Manuel, Angel and Ruben, and of course their classy mom Quina. Mature readers. b&w $3.95

Image Comics

one-shot **40oz Collected** (Jim Mahfood) Collection of Mahfood's underground mini-comics. Featuring short stories starring Mahfood's most popular characters: the Grrl Scouts, Zombie Kid, Rocket Boy, and that lovable minister of funk, Smoke Dog! 120pg b&w .. $9.95

Battle of the Planets: Destroy All Monsters (Munier Sharrieff & various; *Top Cow*) The end is here, and the future of the world is held in the balance. How will the G-Force team defeat the evil Zoltar, and stem the loss of life? Collects issues #10-12, plus three of the 40-page specials: Mark, Jason, and Witchblade. 208pg $19.99

Battle of the Planets: Manga 2 (David Wohl & Edwin David; *Top Cow*) The Battle of the Planets team continues its investigation of strange disappearances at a popular amusement park. b&w $2.99

new **Blokhedz** 1 (Brandon Schultz & Mark Davis + Mike Davis) A 17-year old aspiring rapper, Blak, desperately hungers to blow up in this rap game. If surviving in a neighbourhood run by StreetSweeping crypt-heads, and a lawless Biker Crew isn't enough, one wicked swipe of a cursed knife has cut Blak and threatened his dream of stardom. $2.95

Capes 3 (Robert Kirkman & Mark Englert) Things go from bad to worse as the escaped criminals turn their attention from defence to attack – and that attack takes the shape of an all out brawl right on the doorstep of the Capes home base. $2.95

Casefiles: Sam and Twitch 7 (*Skeletons* 1 of 6; Marc Andreyko & Paul Lee) What do a powerful senator, his legendary political family, a brutal murder/suicide, an elite boys' prep school and more hidden secrets than a Southern Gothic novel have in common? Three words: Detective Sam Burke. b&w $2.95

one-shot **Cloudfall** (Robert Kirkman & E.J. Su) The Governor is dead. Allison Andrews and her partner Darrel are on the case. Other than the fact that this is such a high profile victim, everything seems to be going by the book, until strange things start to happen. 48pg b&w $4.95

Cursed 2 (Fiona Avery + Tippi Blevins & Romano Molenaar + Kevin Conrad; *Top Cow*) Still reeling from her horrifying vision of the walking undead, Shan Beaumont sees herself in the future. Driven mad, just like her father. $2.99

Dawn: Three Tiers 3 (Joseph Michael Linsner) In a village in post-apocalyptic Europa, Dawn – goddess of birth and rebirth – confronts Darrian Ashoka, and forces him to come face to face with his fears. $2.95

GI Joe 24 (Josh Blaylock & Brandon Badeaux) Serpentor moves forward with his plans of conquest, but the odds stack up against him. With both GI Joe and Cobra forces preparing for a full invasion of Cobra Island, the would be emperor will have to use every resource at his disposal – important being his cunning intelligence. $2.95

GI Joe Frontline 17 (Paul Jenkins & Tim Seeley) Beachhead takes a team of new recruits on a less than routine training mission. Being the Hard nosed drill instructor that Beachhead is, he takes them into live battle, where the rookie Joes quickly learns lessons. $2.95

GI Joe vs Transformers 6 (Josh Blaylock & Mike Miller) The secret group of Generals known only as the Jugglers proceed with their nuclear strike on Cobra Island, while GI Joe and the Autobots race against the clock to stop the attack. $2.95

Hawaiian Dick: The Last Resort 3 (B. Clay Moore & Steven Griffin) The FBI makes its presence known, and a hungover Byrd confronts the crime families with what information he has regarding their motivations. $2.95

Heaven's Devils 2 (Jai Nitz & Zach Howard + Thompson Knox) An epidemic rages on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande. Nuevo Laredo has been quarantined, but it is only a matter of time before the disease spreads north across the border. b&w $2.95

one-shot **Heaven's War** (Micah Harris & Michael Gaydos; graphic novel) 1938: As the world moves toward global war, a secret angelic battle is waged in the heavenly realms to determine mankind's fate. The infamous Aleister Crowley plans to manipulate those angelic struggles and thus shape the world according to his will. Only The Inklings (fantasy authors J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and Charles Williams) – oppose him. 120pg b&w $12.95

The Hedge Knight 4 (George R.R. Martin + Ben Avery & Mike S. Miller) As dusk descends over the Ashford tournament, Dunk and his runaway squire Egg recover from the horror they just witnessed and prepare for Dunk's upcoming combat in the tournament. $2.95

Hellhounds 4 (George T. Singley IV & Joe Abraham) King and Shock are swarmed by hideous creatures as they attempt the impossible. Can they conquer the insurmountable odds and defeat the horde of brutal monsters? $2.95

Invincible 9 *(Perfect Strangers, Part One;* Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker) Mark teams up with former Teen Team member Rex Plode to thwart some evil, but how can the two effectively fight the bad guy when they really want to fight each other? $2.95

Jack Staff 5 (Paul Grist) Learn the real reason why Jack Staff decided to walk away from being Britain's greatest hero 20 years ago. $2.95

Legacy 4 (Carmen Treffiletti & Edu Francisco) As the final crystal shard nears Sorrow's Keep, Lucian and gang fall short in an attempt to impede its course. They find themselves deep within the Caverns of the Eternal Echo where a mysterious creature named Bevelard will reveal the truth behind Lucian's past. $2.95

Liberty Meadows Vol II: Creature Comforts (Frank Cho; hbk) Life and love in Liberty Meadows, animal sanctuary, where anything and everything can happen. Collects issues #10-18 of the popular comic book. 144pg b&w $24.95

Powers Vol V: Anarchy (Brian Michael Bendis & Mike Avon Oeming) Anti Powers groups are rising up with a series of gruesome murders against the cities most colourful capes. 128pg $14.95

PvP 5 (Scott Kurtz) A new tenant is moving into the same office complex as PvP Magazine – the famous Max Powers. Is this a wild coincidence or does Max have sinister designs on PvP Magazine? b&w $2.95

Rex Mundi 8 (Arvid Nelson & Eric J) Julien comes tantalisingly close to the stolen scroll, and terrifyingly close to the Inquisition. $2.95

Savage Dragon 113 (Erik Larsen) Criminal masterminds Octopus and OpenFace plan to take over the world – and one man stands in their way-the Savage Dragon. $2.95

Sei: Death & Legend (Sho Murase) Tells the story of the uncertain origin of Sei, the Japanese equivalent of Death – the female Grim Reaper. 64pg .. $6.95

Shadows 5 (Jade Dodge & Matt Camp) The team is sent to Tyler's hometown, San Francisco, to investigate one couple's claim that their house is occupied by a menacing and violent poltergeist. b&w $2.95

Spawn 140 (Brian Holguin + Todd McFarlane & Angel Medina; *TMP)* Convinced that the Spawn part of his nature is acting on its own, Al Simmons starts piecing together the clues to try and understand what agenda his Dark Side is pursuing. $2.50

Street Fighter 3 (Ken Siu-Chong & Alvin Lee + Arnold Tsang) Ryu is confronted and taunted by Master Gouken's murderer in the dark forest surrounding the dojo. $2.95

Tomb Raider 36 *(Black Legion* 2 of 3; James Bonny & Tony Daniel + Jon Sibal; *Top Cow)* Lara Croft saddles up for a modern day Western adventure as she rides into Arizona's Superstition Mountains in search of the fabled Lost Dutchman Gold Mine. $2.99

one-shot **Tomb Raider Takeover** (James Bonny & Scott Benefiel + Jasen Rodriguez; *Top Cow)* When Lara Croft delivers a priceless artefact to a metropolitan museum for a black-tie reception, she comes dressed to kill-but in a slinky evening gown and without her guns! $2.99

Trakk: Monster Hunter 2 (Brian Haberlin + Francis Takenaga & Philip Tan) People are disappearing in the inner city. There are rumours of unnatural creatures. The police are baffled. And the only hope is sloshed out of his mind! $2.95

Victory 3 (Marcelo Cassaro & Edu Francisco) Feeling the heartache of being away from her world and her loved ones, Victoria can no longer find the strength that is needed to protect herself and the crew of kids that unleashed her into the new world. $2.95

The Walking Dead 2 (Robert Kirkman & Tony Moore) Rick Grime sets out for Atlanta, the last known location of his wife and son. It's only a five-hour drive, but this is not the case when all the petrol stations are closed and your car is dry. b&w $2.95

Wildguard: Casting Call 3 (Todd Nauck) After last issue's battle royale, the auditions have not gone as planned, but the show must go on! $2.95

Moonstone

new **Kolchak: Tales of the Night Stalker** 1 (various) Carl Kolchak heads for New Orleans to look into rumours about a human plant skulking about the hot summer streets. Mature readers. $3.50

new **Moonstone Monsters: Sea Creatures** 1 (various) Collection of stories. *Crooked* finds a group of teenagers terrorised by a legend from the swamp, while in *The Night of the Goldfish* a flippered friend tries to avenge his master's death. b&w $2.95

new **Moonstone Noir: The Lone Wolf** 1 (various) The Lone Wolf's past comes back to blackmail her into lifting a computer program worth billions of dollars. 48pg b&w $4.95

Mr Keen: Tracer of Lost Persons 2 (of 3; Justin Gray & Lee Ferguson) Lucien Denali is aware that Ninette is in NYC to kill him for the perverse treatment of her an her twins sister. b&w . $2.95

new **Phantom** 1 (Ben Raab & Pat Quinn) The Mighty Phantom breaks up a slave camp in his native Bangalla, whose captives are mining a diamond field at the command of Ali Gutalle. $3.50

The Silencers 3 (van Lente & Ellis + Yoo) The silencers strike back against the Syndicate in a series of lightning-fast raids. Mature readers. $3.50

Oni Press

one-shot **The Complete Soulwind** (Scott Morse; tpbk) *See Close-Up, right.*

Jingle Belle Vol 3: Dash Away All (Paul Dini & Jose Garibaldi; tpbk) A sneak freeze attack by the Blizzard Wizard leaves Santa and his reindeer with a near-terminal case of pneumonia. 136pg b&w $11.95

one-shot **Last Exit Before Toll** (Neal Shaffer & Christopher Mitten + Dawn Pietrusko; graphic novel) Charles Pierce has reached a dead end, wandering through life as if he were barely there. On a business trip, he breaks down in rural Virginia. Now stranded, Charles slowly begins to realise that this accident may be his chance at a new life. That is, if the past doesn't catch up with him first. Mature readers. 96pg b&w $9.95

Love Fights 5 (Andi Watson) Nora's story about the Flamer's love child means sales and income take a dive for Jack. Mature readers. b&w $2.99

Queen & Country 21 (Greg Rucka & Mike Hawthorne) After the devastating effects of the last story arc, how will Tara pick up the pieces of her crumbling life as a spy? Mature readers. b&w $2.99

Scooter Girl 5 (of 6; Chynna Clugston-Major) Ashton begins to have second thoughts about his diabolical scheme for Margaret. Mature readers. b&w $2.99

one-shot **Three Days in Europe** (Anthony Johnston & Mike Hawthorne; tpbk) Can Jack and Jill escape their Parisian/Londonian adventures and rekindle their relationship? 144pg b&w $14.95

Too Much Hopeless Savages! 4 (of 4; Jen Van Meter & Christine Norrie + Ross Campbell) Arsenal is on her own in Hong Kong. The family can't help her any more – in fact, she needs to help them. b&w $2.99

Sirius

one-shot **Aaron Bordner's Alice Sinn: A Dark Sin** (Aaron Bordner) After a horrible accident, Alice survived as a pure soul trapped within the prison of her mind. Though she survived freakish creatures, she now face Dark Alice! Mature readers. 24pg $2.95

Poison Elves 75 (Drew Hayes) Disappointed by the ease of the Elvin assassin's journey to the First Step, Tenth conjures a critter to back Luse and Lynn's path. Mature readers. 24pg b&w $2.95

Tokyopop

Dragon Knights Vol 11 (of 17; Mineko Ohkami) Large numbers of demon forces close in on the castle, but Rath doesn't stay somnolent for long, and his awakening will mean death within the walls of the Dragon Castle, and the loss of a precious item within its vaults. 192pg b&w $9.99

Gravitation Vol 3 (of 12; Maki Mrakami; graphic novel) When he hears Ayaka say that Eiri is her fiance, Shuichi goes into a total tizzy. b&w $9.99

Happy Mania Vol 5 (of 11; Mayoco Anno; graphic novel) Kayoko struggles to decide what she's going to do about her living situation since Fukuchan is moving out. Mature readers. 192pg $9.99

Initial D Vol 9 (of 23; Suichi Shigeno; graphic novel) When some chick explodes at Natalie for no good reason, Tak's more than willing to give the girl and her boyfriend a lesson in humility with an impromptu race. 200pg . $9.99

Jing King of Bandits Vol 4 (of 7; Yuichi Kumakura; graphic novel) Jing and Kir are in Seventh Heaven, but it's not part of another big heist – it's actually a maximum security prison for the criminally deranged run by a vampire warden and his hockey-masked guards. 216pg b&w $9.99

Kim Possible Cinemanga Vol 3 (of 4; various; graphic novel) Kim squares off with multi-billionaire bad guy Senor Senior, Sr as he attempts to suck Europe dry of electricity. 192pg b&w . . $7.99

The Kindachi Casefiles Vol 4 (of 10; Kanari Yozaburo & Sato Fumiya; graphic novel) Nobody at Hajime Kindaichi's school takes him seriously. What they do take seriously are the recent ghost sightings around campus and the threatening letters from someone calling himself the Afterschool Magician. Who is this Afterschool Magician, and what is he after? b&w $9.99

Lizzie Mcguire Cinemanga Vol 4 (of 4; Terri Minsky; graphic novel) When Miranda and heartthrob Ethan Craft are paired together in a mock marriage, Lizzie has to decide whether to speak her mind. 192pg b&w $7.99

Lupin III Vol 10 (of 14; Monkey Punch) Lupin gets into the revenge game, and takes over a sovereign island in the name of his family and for the dignity of his legacy. 192pg b&w $9.99

Rave Master Vol 6 (of 18; Hiro Mashima) Sieg Hart is more that happy to destroy Haru if he is called upon to do so. But first he must find a mysterious girl, made in the image of the legendary Resha, and provided with a deadly magic powerful enough to destroy the world 192pg b&w $9.99

Rebound Vol 5 (of 11; Yuriko Nishiyama; graphic novel) Johnan has never been more ready to take on Tskuba, the very team that knocked them out of the finals in the first round last year. They've trained, they've hustled, they've shown tremendous teamwork. What could possibly go wrong? 192pg b&w $9.99

Samurai Deeper Kyo Vol 4 (of 18; Kamijyo Akimine; graphic novel) Yuya is attacked by a pack of wolves, but is rescued by a group of rebels who kill the wolves and take her away. 192pg b&w $9.99

one-shot **Shirahime-Syo Snow Goddess Tales** (CLAMP; hbk) Legends say that when it snows, it is because the snow princess is crying. This is a collection of five tragic tales, all connected by the bond of snow. 128pg b&w $19.99

Zodiac PI Vol 4 (of 4; Natsumi Ando; graphic novel) Lili and Hiromi visit a mysterious fortune-teller called Zeus and find themselves, along with Lili's father, embroiled in a situation in which the fate of the Star Ring itself is very much in doubt. 192pg b&w $9.99

Black Library

one-shot **The Art of Adrian Smith** (Adrian Smith) Collects the work of an artist who has helped define the worlds of Warhammer. $29.99

Kal Jericho III: Above and Beyond (various; graphic novel) Kal comes face to face with his long lost relatives, and he must rely on his quick wits to blast him out of trouble. 96pg $10.99

Warhammer Monthly 74 (various) Darkblade raises an army with his eyes set firmly on Ulthuan. 40pg b&w $3.50

UK NEWSSTAND

DC Thomson

The Beano 3183-3186 (weekly; various) Classic kids humour anthology featuring Dennis the Menace, the Bash Street Kids, and all your favourites. £0.55

Beano Superstars 142 (various) One complete strip of the long-running humour anthology. 36pg £0.65

Classics from the Comics 88 (various) Anthology reprinting classic cartoon strips from DC Thomson's vintage kids' comics Beano and Dandy. 68pg b&w £1.20

Commando Action And Adventure Stories 3654-3661 (eight per month; digest; various) Featuring one self-contained comic strip per issue. Some new material. 68pg b&w £0.80

Fun-Size Beano 145-146 (fortnightly; various) Pocket-sized spin-off from the Beano featuring Dennis the Menace, and all the usual suspects. 68pg £0.60

Panini Comics

Action Man 89 (four-weekly; various) All-new soldier adventure yarns, plus quizzes and prizes based on the action figure. 28pg £1.50

Astonishing Spider-Man 102 (four-weekly; various; *Marvel UK)* Official UK outing for US Marvel comic adventures, with free posters and extras. 76pg £2.40

Avengers United 32 (various) Fast-paced action from Marvel's largest superhero team including the Hulk, Captain America, Iron Man, Hawkeye and the Scarlet Witch. £2.40

Doctor Who Magazine 336 (four-weekly; various) Contains celebrity interviews, feature articles and original stories based on everybody's favourite doc. 52pg £3.30

Essential X-Men 105 (four-weekly; various; *Marvel UK)* Contains material from US editions Giant Sized X-Men #1 and Uncanny X-Men #358. 76pg £2.40

Powerpuff Girls Powerzine 17 (various) Comicstrips and fun, entertaining and humorous features presented by the 3 super-heroines, Blossom, Bubbles and Buttercup. £1.75

Scooby Doo 5 (various) Regular vanquishing of baddies who, frankly would have got away with it if it weren't for those pesky kids. Also contains competitions, activities, quizzes and more! £1.99

Spectacular Spider-Man 90 (eight-weekly; various) New comic strips and games. Plus a bunch of free posters and a competition. 36pg £1.75

Transformers Armada 6 (various) Original UK comic strip, data files, cyber-puzzles, competitions and more. £1.75

Ultimate Spider-Man 21 (various; *Marvel UK)* Tells a tale of Spider-Man, retold with modern-day computer enhanced artwork. This comic series focuses on the adventures of 17-year old Peter Parker as he attempts to survive battles with evil supervillains and high school bullies alike! £1.95

Ultimate X-Men 7 (various; *Marvel UK)* Reveals the incredible origins of Cyclops, Marvel Girl, Storm, Beast, Colossus, Iceman – and adds some razor-sharp adamantium just to hot things up! £1.95

Wolverine & Gambit 91 (four-weekly; various; *Marvel UK)* Compiles US Marvel's own brand of Wolverine comic strips plus magazine-style feature articles on the tortured toothy one. 76pg £2.40

Rebellion

2000 AD #1365-1368 (various) Secret agent Synnamon investigates a nano-revolution in *Facing Mecha.* Plus zombie mayhem and unveiled secrets. . $3.75

2000 AD Showcase #2 (Mike Carey & Andy Clarke) London punk Joe Bulmer's on the run from the mysterious forces which want his power-enhancing black pearl. $1.95

Judge Dredd Megazine 213 (various) Judge Dredd finds himself in a living nightmare when a crazed bounty hunter unleashes terrifying aliens on the city. 100pg $10.99

Valentine 10 (various) Dana Valentine slowly begins to remember the traumatic events of her past and what led her to the life she lives today. Mature readers. 24pg b&w $2.95

close-up

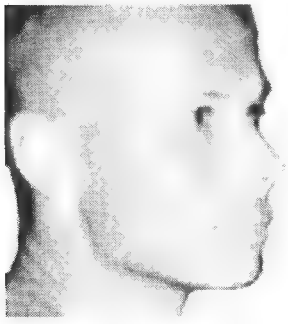
The Complete Soulwind

Oni Press

Writer/Artist: Scott Morse

For the first time in one volume, here is a collection of Scott Morse's entire Soulwind story. Beginning with a boy transported across the universe to retrieve a legendary sword, and ending with an old woman unravelling the true account of creation, this is a tale of ancient myth, classic fairy tales, modern pulp and futuristic adventure. 520pg b&w $29.95

ON SALE NOVEMBER



Julie Birchill of comics . . .

Talking Shop with Stephen Holland

Reminding people there's a real mainstream out there

MANY thanks to all of you writing in on the subject of comicbook retail, be it with advice, compliments, criticism, or the royal roasting I received from Forbidden Planet's ex-employee, Phil Tonge (**CI** #163).

All of which brings me one step closer to my (highly suspect) goal of becoming the Julie Burchill of comics and – more realistically – fulfilling my initial promise to Dez, which was to send the letters pages rattling with a feisty debate on standards. Please keep them coming, even if I end up receiving my own fair share of flack.

And, you know, Phil's absolutely right about the hypocrisy. I'm a vegetarian in cowboy boots, an anti-corporate smoker, and – worst of all – I'm a paid-up member of Greenpeace who makes his living selling forest-loads of pulped, dead tree. I am so very, very sorry.

He may even be right about the "smug" and "supercilious" – just like Julie Burchill – although can you blame me being full of myself when my mugshot's twice the size of Dez's? Admittedly mine's in black and white while Dez is immortalised in that sexy, mortuary blue so I guess he wins out there. (Note to designer: Please don't correct it this issue, or that joke's going to go flatter than the sales of a Moon Knight miniseries.)

But in all honesty no-one in this industry can afford to be either "smug" or "supercilious", and I was heartened to read both Steve Page's letter as a customer, and indeed Billy Hynes' as a retailer (**CI** #163). I'm with them, on so many points, and I only wish Billy had mentioned which shop he was from (unless of course there's an outlet out there called **Another Comics Shop**, in which case, whoops!)

Retailers are *supposed* to be there to help. We're the link between the publisher, its product and the customer, so if you can't ask *us* questions, who *can* you ask? Please keep on asking, no matter how many times, because if we have it in stock, we'd like you to buy it; and if it's yet to arrive, well, one day it will, we'll be able to say "Yes, here it is!", share your shocked delight, then gratefully take your money. (Passengers please note: **League of Extraordinary Gentlemen** #6 has finally docked and is now ready for boarding.)

Even if it's a nebulous title whose name you don't know, most retailers love this stuff so much that if you give them a brief description, they'll pinpoint it within seconds and show you where it is. Really, we're quite smart and/or anal that way.

Normally I work to a deadline two columns in advance of publication, so I don't get to wade in, but serendipitously it all went to pot this month. So if only to stoke the fires some more, here's where Page 45 stands on a few issues you've raised which I haven't yet covered.

1) We bag all our comics except for the top copy so you can look through it. Why? So the price stickers don't wreck your books, and the comics aren't damaged by wear and tear.

2) We don't bag our trade paperbacks, because we want as much of the shop as possible to look like a bookstore, nor do we want to appear precious. The stickers come straight off the thicker stock, so don't worry. Initially I was concerned about damages, but at half a dozen a year, when you consider that we take several thousand pounds a week on trade paperbacks alone, this is remarkable. Oh, and here's a tip: if you have some irritatingly persistent stickers desecrating your books or CDs, use lighter fluid. Let it soak in for a second, and they come off a treat. Just don't light up after!

3) If you buy a book and you want a comic bag, just ask. It costs less than a penny, and takes a second to fit. You're welcome.

4) Accepting plastic? It's safer to us than cash (although is this bad? – we do ask for a minimum purchase of £5, because we're charged every time).

5) Student, Disabled and Unemployed Discount: similarly, we wouldn't offer it if we didn't want you to take advantage of it. Steve Page is absolutely right – we shouldn't gripe or be in any way begrudging.

6) Kids. Ah, kids. Well, all the kids we have in are cool and extremely polite. Except during those Pokemon days, when, uncharacteristically, we dined at the devil's table (models, cards, the lot). The food was fantastic, but it gave us indigestion to the extent that I ended up chasing one of the brats – who don't generally buy comics – all the way to the nearest multi-storey car park, to relieve him of a theft that got my gall. I had no idea I was capable of jumping over a counter, let alone looking that menacing, but he shat himself quite rewardingly. There are few advantages to being a skinhead, but this is one of them.

> "I had no idea I was capable of jumping over a counter, let alone looking that menacing, but he shat himself quite rewardingly."

Thankfully everything's returned to normal now, but it does touch on an interesting point: apart from that year, we have very little theft. And when we do, it's usually T-shirts.

Comics don't have a sell-on value. In fact, insurance companies refer to them as "non-desirable goods."

You see what we're up against?

Next month: I start bursting any mysteries there may be about comicbook retail: when new comics arrive, how we place reorders, retailer incentives, why some titles never hit the shelf, and customer orders.

If you have a subject you want to see tackled, ask Dez. He'll forward it to me, and I'll do my best to be helpful, inclusive and neither smug nor supercilious.

Heaven help me!

Stephen Holland runs Nottingham's Page 45 with Mark Simpson and Tom Rosin.

Address: http://www.comix-shop.co.uk > go
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Nice!

Rich Johnston's LYING IN THE GUTTER

The mild-mannered creator/writer of the Internet's original comics industry rumour and news column has outraged many a publisher and survived more than one change of website. But, despite several attempts to stop it, the Squiddy Award-winning gutterpress site continues to thrive, with over 20,000 hits a week at its new home of www.comicbookresources.com

From his unique vantage point, Rich often scoops the industry newshounds with his stories. Here are the highlights from this month's Gutter...

Ed Authority

Ed Brubaker will be the new writer on **The Authority**. The artist on his first story will be DC's Mr Fix-it, Jim Lee.

Big Explody Stuff

Warren Ellis has provided more details about his upcoming project with Chris (**Tom Strong**) Sprouse entitled **Ocean**. In Warren's words, "I've written a six-issue creator-owned SF serial for WildStorm called **Ocean**, to be illustrated by Chris Sprouse. And by written, I mean written. WildStorm has all six complete scripts. 150 pages of big explody stuff, diamond spaceships, ocean moons and an armada of floating corpses. I started work on it back in 2001, and I guess it'll see print in 2004."

If everything goes right, Warren Ellis is in line to take over Brian Michael Bendis' unofficial title of Having the Most Projects Out at One Time in 2004.

Team CrossGen Comics

There's been a lot of negativity shown towards CrossGen of late. Okay, okay, some of it may have been as a result of this very column, but that's no excuse!

CrossGen is a comics company employing hundreds of people, providing entertainment for thousands and a line that reaches people other comics don't reach. And it's having financial difficulties – only this week I was told of one book that's been burning through creators as they've all dropped off after not being paid and not being told there were any financial difficulties when they took over from the last bloke who left. And statements that CrossGen staff are sticking with the company and remain loyal is tempered by the fact that some of them can't leave for a certain period of time without having to pay back significant moving costs stumped up by CrossGen as the price for moving them to Florida.

When these kind of problems affected Top Shelf, or Fantagraphics, everyone rallied round – why not with CrossGen? Okay, the company hasn't actually admitted it has any comparative problem, but why take chances? Why the gloating? You're mad, all of you.

So it's time to call for A CrossGen Fundraiser. Whether it wants one or not. It's time to buy those books you were curious about but never tried. To get the next trade of the series you only bought the first trade of. To dip your toe into the fantasy world of CrossGen. Here are three upcoming floppies to help you get started:

Route 666. Recommended by Joe Quesada, and with the best title for any comic in decades, this is a road trip of heaven and hell. Issue 15 is drawn by John McCrea.

Did you like *Pirates Of The Caribbean*? Want a pirate comicbook, beyond just rereading those bits in **Watchmen**? Try **El Cazador** #1.

Remember those **Prince Valiant** stories of old? **Scion** #39 is a tribute to the genius of Hal Foster. And make sure you check out the first trade of **Ruse** and delve into **Crossovers** while you're about it.

Go to their website (*www.crossgen.com*) for more

continued on next page...

Networks

Comics news and gossip on the Internet

Compiled by Chris Rice and his team of Netmites

Net sightings

Man Of Aluminium

*ONE OF the men responsible for turning Superman into a global icon passed away at the beginning of September, as the **Miami Herald** reported on its website recently*:

Former Miami Beach resident Jay Morton, who penned some of the best-known Superman phrases, including "faster than a speeding bullet," died last weekend of a brain aneurysm in Charlotte, NC, aged 92.

Morton was once a scriptwriter and artist for the Fleischer Studios animation shop in Miami. In 1938, the studio acquired the rights to the comicbook hero from the publisher, now known as DC Comics. Morton was two steps ahead, said his son, Alex:

"My father knew about the deal and had scripts ready." Morton first described Superman for the cartoons as "faster than a roaring hurricane" and "more powerful than the pounding surf." A few scripts later, Morton came up with the now-infamous phrases, "Faster than a speeding bullet! More powerful than a locomotive! Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound! Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird, it's a plane – it's Superman!"

Morton was born in Hollywood, California. In the late 1920s, his father, a pressman at **The Los Angeles Times**, moved his family to the Bronx, where he opened his own print shop. After beginning his varied career as a child actor in the pre-Depression Era *Our Gang* comedies, Morton decided to pursue a career in art and writing.

After studying studio art at the Pratt Institute in New York, he landed a writing job with Fleischer. In 1937, he moved to Miami, and soon began his association with the Man of Steel. In 1941, Paramount Pictures bought Fleischer Studios and moved it to California. Morton decided to stay in Florida, and branched into finance, publishing, inventing, art and politics.

Ever the scriptwriter, Morton continued to write his Superman stories and short subjects for TV and the movies. Morton was the creator of 30 patented inventions, most notable being the pop-top aluminum beverage can.

"He lived a good life," Alex Morton said. "He always said, 'Follow your dream. If you love what you are doing in life, you'll always succeed'."

Video who?

*A LOST, um, classic is being returned to the public eye in September, when Komikwerks starts posting Cary Bates and Keith Giffen's **Video Jack** on their site. Published by Epic in the Eighties and consigned to 10p bins ever since,* Networks *has an enormous amount of affection for this book and would thoroughly recommend checking it out.*

The tale of a pair of moronic teenagers sucked into their television set, it's extremely surreal and sardonically hilarious and its panel-grid format has lent itself well to reprinting in strip form. It's appearing every Wednesday, so go have a read at:
www.komikwerks.com

Above: Batman by Sienkiewicz

Stray Bats

*WITH Brian Azzarello and Eduardo Risso about to start their run on **Batman**, their successors on the book have already revealed themselves as art legend Bill Sienkiewicz and **Stray Bullets** creator David Lapham.*

Sienkiewicz announced the news at the recent Dragon-con in Atlanta, and more has been revealed online, with the artist apparently several months into the artwork. It's not yet known whether it'll be fully painted or pen & ink, although Networks *would imagine it to be the latter, or possibly a mix of the two, as Jim Lee has done with some success. Lapham will be writing.*

Networks *is very excited about this, and would urge you all to go and buy some **Stray Bullets**, and prepare yourself for what is likely to be one of the best Batman books ever.*

Mr Miller...

*ROBERT Morales, writer of **The Truth**, and upcoming **Captain America** writer revealed some interesting news on* Networks' *favorite site,* MillarWorld *recently:*

Frank Miller's doing a graphic novel in his black-and-white **Sin City** mode, wherein Batman takes on terrorists. He has a script, no fixed deadline, and total freedom to approach the storytelling in as many pages as he sees fit.

Last time we talked about it, he'd hit page 30 and hadn't yet started the main plotline; I hear he's currently nearing page 100, and the story's in full swing. How long it'll be when it's done is anybody's guess – but it'll be worth any wait.

*Despite many disparaging reviews, **DK2** did sell an awful lot of comics, and* Networks *believes a Batman book in the style of **Sin City** would be a very interesting prospect indeed.*

*Of course, there's also his long awaited **Jesus** project still yet to see print, but it's likely this project will be a little more lucrative.*

...and Mr Millar

MARK Millar, the proprietor of MillarWorld, *master of self-promotion-without-*

being-as-full-of-himself-as-Warren-Ellis, held a Q&A session online, and amongst tales of convention drunkeness and his attraction to Janet Ellis, he revealed his upcoming plans.

Networks *has cut-and-pasted the most pertinent snippets, but would urge you to check out the full 5-page extravaganza on the site.*

Between now and December, **Red Son** finishes, as does **Trouble** and **The Ultimates** Volume one. December launches **Wanted**, **The Unfunnies**, **Chosen** and **Run** and also **Ultimate Fantastic Four**. Either Dec or Jan we're launching **The Ultimates** volume two with an opening sequence with Cap being dropped on a motorbike from the back of a stealth bomber as he goes on a rescue mission in Iraq.

Also, see the secret origin of Thor; who's got who up the duff; who's wedding takes place in the first few issues; who gets murdered and... ah, fuck. It's good stuff. Especially Ultimate Defenders. And Ultimate Captain Britain. And what the fuck was happening in Norway that's so important.

They've done their big silly action adventure and finally become superheroes. Now all the shit hits the fan and the book goes very real and very political. *Issue One: Persons of Mass Destruction* is being written as we speak.

The hardcover is still happening around Christmas, but we're not sure whether to make this the extended hardcover now, or save it until we've done our two volumes. It's a tricky one. Director's Cuts are always best done later, I think. *(So we end up having to buy the same book twice?)*

Spring is when the *Millarworld* titles all start to wrap up and my new (very famous) Marvel monthly gets going. Before you ask, it has nothing to do with the X-Men. And it's not **Ghostie** either. That's much later. Post-**Ultimates**, Hitchy and I are doing 12 issues in 12 months of a very big Marvel book.

After that, **Superman**! Whether DC likes it or not. **Superman** is our destiny. It's *that* simple. PS: I know who's doing the movie too. Even DC don't know this yet, but I'm friendly with the writer/director and he's been angling for this for a while. You. Will. Be. Happy.

Ultimate FF is something I've signed onto for at least a year and I'm very happy with how it's looking. This book will surprise everybody. I think it's going to be huge and no coincidence that they rushed us out there for a plotting session mere days before they announced the movie was happnening!

And despite his admitted lust for Annette O'Toole, Ma Kent and Lana Lang on the small and big screens respectively, he doesn't seem to think much of Supeman's current TV incarnation:

Smallville is too gay. That image of Supes tied to a scarecrow and covered in lipstick is fucking creepy. Is Pa Kent a hillbilly now? That Superboy guy also has a girl's mouth.

Chris Bunting's COMICS WEBWORLD

While US comic publishers may rule the roost, let's not forget the fact that we still have some homegrown contenders. Here are the Best of British:

BEANO *www.beanotown.com*

You only need say Dennis, Minnie or Roger and you automatically think of the beloved bastion of British comics, **The Beano**. Using the Beanotown map you navigate this classy looking – and child orientated – site which provides loads of free games and fun. Visit Menace Central, the museum or see even more old friends at **The Dandy** Embassy. Although a treat for readers, more insight into the actual comic would be welcome. 7

THE BLACK LIBRARY *www.blacklibrary.co.uk/index.html*

Games Workshop's comic publishing arm is best known for its two titles, **Warhammer** and **Warhammer 40,000**. This site is thoroughly – and thoughtfully – designed, pre-empting what the visiting fan and retailer would want and providing it for them. The author profiles are fantastic, as is the store, stocking exclusive merchandise. Strong. 8

COM.X COMICS *www.comxcomics.com*

Despite suffering setbacks since its conception, Com.X has continued to soldier on producing such titles as **Cla$$war**, **Njin**, **Bazooka Jules** and **Puncture**. Unfortunately these setbacks appear to have affected this site also, as it hasn't been updated since May this year. The potential is definitely there however, and already there's some offerings of interest, **Inside Leg** being one of them. Needs nurturing. 5

PANINI COMICS *www.paninicomics.co.uk*

Most of us remember Panini as the maker of the stickers we collected when we were kids, but now it also publishes comics ranging from **Doctor Who Magazine** to **Astonishing Spider-Man** to **Tractor Tom**. With its banner and profiles, this slick site shows that Panini clearly takes pride in its titles, as well as in its fans, with such sections as message boards and fan art. 7

2000 AD *www.2000adonline.com*

Alan Moore, Grant Morrison and Neil Gaiman have written for it. Judge Dredd, Rogue Trooper and Strontium Dog have appeared in it. It is of course **2000 AD**, Britain's multi-award-winning cult sci-fi comic. Classed as an "interactive companion" to the comic, this site – with its creator profiles, stories, games and downloads – has become a force in its own right. It has everything that you'd expect and then some more thrown in for good measure. 9

VIZ *www.viz.co.uk*

This Newcastle-upon-Tyne-based humour comic first appeared in 1979 and is still going strong. If you're a fan of Biffa Bacon, Sid the Sexist or Roger Mellie there's certainly enough here to keep you entertained, even if it's not a patch on the comic itself. Still, where else could you buy a **Viz** chess set? 7

Honourable mention: **AP Comics** - *www.apcomics.com*

Rich Johnston's LYING IN THE GUTTER

continued from previous page...

details, go to the new inkers message board to find out who's being paid and when, but stay here for more juicy CrossGen rumours!

CrossGen comics are available from pretty much any comic retailer. And if not, tell them to start ordering!

Marvel Outsourcing to CrossGen?

Of course, all the above may be moot. With Bill Jemas' position now being redefined, Isaac Perlmutter selling one hundred million dollars worth of Marvel shares, could it be Avi Arad's time to regain dominance at Marvel?

I understand there have been serious discussions between Avi and CrossGen individuals about the possibility of outsourcing the publishing of Marvel Comics down to Florida.

Ike Sale

Earlier this week, Isaac Perlmutter's decision to sell five million shares in Marvel at $20 each was leaked onto the *Yahoo Marvel Investors Forum* by an individual known as Marketmind. Think of him as a Felicia for the Marvel investors. This information helped a number of individuals to see before the inevitable blip drop in value when Ike finally sold.

This activity naturally caused a bit of a panic. I have been told that Ike decided to hold off on selling a large amount of his shares when other Marvel execs did a few months ago, partly due to his belief in an upcoming buyout deal. His decision to sell has been seen by some as an indication that Marvel has currently no buyers.

DC in the Manga Business?

Seems like DC's trying to get a piece of pie when it comes to Manga. Over on Time Warner's website, there's a posting for the position of Manga Editor for WildStorm. Job duties include indentifying "commercially successful titles for acquisition" and editing "up to 10 monthly import editions".

Requirements include being fluent in written and spoken Japanese. There's also "approximately 25% international travel required", so get your bags packed!

Change is Constant(ine)

The film version of DC/Vertigo's **Hellblazer** seems to be falling into place with recent press releases and un-official rumours. Here's a quick and concise run-down of what to expect.

While no official movie script has been found online, the short plot circulating shows John Constantine (Keanu Reeves) joining forces with "skeptical policewoman Katelin Dodson (Rachel Weisz) to solve the mysterious suicide of her twin sister.

"Their investigation takes them through the world of demons and angels that exist just beneath the landscape of contemporary Los Angeles."

Co-starring with Mr. Reeves and Ms. Weisz are Tilda Swinton (*Adaptation*, *Vanilla Sky*) as Gabriel, Djimon Hounsou (*Lara Croft II*, *Gladiator*) as Papa Midnight, Shia LaBeouf (*Holes*) as Constantine's sidekick, Chaz, and Gavin Rossdale (lead singer of Bush) as Balthazar.

This is the film directorial debut of Francis Lawrence, who's best known for directing music videos for Will Smith, Britney Spears and Aerosmith.

Filming is set to begin on September 22nd in Los Angeles, and they're aiming for a September 17, 2004 cinematic release.

With the spotty success of even getting a comicbook film made, I'm not betting too much on seeing this until I'm sitting in the theatre. On the other hand, to quote Keanu Reeves... "Whoah!"

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Superman (1st series) #200-400
Wonder Woman – ANY AND ALL

We are also looking for runs of – Spawn/Authority/Cable/Catwoman/Thunderbolts and many others. Please contact us on 020 7836 5630 if you have any of the titles listed.

Mighty World of Comicana – 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 *(020 7836 5630)*

Reviews

Because few retailers allow titles to be read before purchase, ***Comics International****'s comprehensive reviews section enables comics readers to keep abreast of the wide range of titles currently being published and draw readers' attention to comics they might otherwise ignore. Naturally, this section is of even greater benefit to readers who rely solely on mail order, as they can only judge the quality of a title after purchase.*

Review codes: *Individual titles are judged against all similar comics past and present on a* ***1*** *to* ***10*** *basis, while a comparison is made against previous issues of the same title, ranging from <---> to <+++>. Hence, a quality comic may score an 8 against all others, but have slid from a previous issue's 9, denoted by <->. No change is marked <=>. We do not compare* ***Bone*** *with* ***X-Men****, but review each within their genre.*

Review panel: *Chris D. Bowen (CDB), Chris E. Bunting (CEB), Rob Cave (RC), Jon Edwards (JE), Kelvin Green (KG), Stephen Hall (SH), David Knight (DK), Dominic McDonagh (DM), Tom McSween (TM), Scott Montgomery (SM), Ian Murphy (IM), Lee Nelson (LN), Terence Stewart (TS), Mat Thomas (MT), Alex Thompson (MAT)*

CrossGen

The Crossovers 6

by Rodi & Mauricet + Colon

<=> The assault on the Crossovers begins – but they're too busy bickering among themselves to notice. The enemies attack each other instead and only Cubby the dog seems concerned with the resulting warzone. Penciler Mauricet bows out in style but writer Robert Rodi will keep this what it continues to be: the most-overlooked must-read out there. (CEB) 8

Crux 27

by Dixon & Ryan + Marcos

<=> Mr Benedict orders the destruction of Atlantis from space, while on the surface a Negation army adds to the Atlantean's problems. Tug, however, has a plan which leads to a classy cliffhanger. Chuck Dixon's writing is tight and guest penciler Paul Ryan shows he's got what it takes. A strong offering. (CEB) 7

Dragon's Lair 1

by Mangels & Laguna; CrossGen/MVCreations

Dirk the Daring and Princess Daphne's peace is shattered when Singe, the daddy of all dragons, attacks. Capturing Daphne, Singe has more than a meal on his mind... he wants revenge. Dirk will have to brave the Dark Kingdom to reach and rescue her, and so the quest begins. Fabio Laguna's vibrant, cartoony art is ideal and writer Andy Mangels has a firm grasp on the premise. Fans of the classic arcade game will love this. (CEB) 7

Negation 19

by Bedard & Pelletier

<=> Komptin uses Kaine as bait to lead his allies into a trap. With the formidable General Kryzorr ready to pounce, they look to be in real trouble, but thanks to Gammid the tables may well be turned. Penciler Paul Pelletier positively shines and writer Tony Bedard mixes some superheroics into the sci-fi to great effect. Try it... you'll like it! (CEB) 7

Dark Horse

The Goon 2

by Powell

<=> Just because this title's demented creator Eric Powell doesn't take too kindly to drooling, faeces-playing morons, doesn't mean he's a bad guy. Neither is the supposedly reformed Dr Alloy who decides to take on Goon after learning his secret mobster ties, which leaves him having to deal with the denizens of downtown and their curious affection for the pugilistic protector. This hilariously comical 'horror' title plays up all the daftest aspects of pulps and B-movies, like the funniest Troma film, except with better special effects. (MAT) 8

DC Comics

The Authority 5

by Morrison & Huat + Baron; WildStorm

<+> After the vacuously flashy work of Dwayne Turner that kicked off the new volume of the once great title, DC's upcoming star Tan Eng Huat's stylishly quirky art is employed in an attempt to wow back critical acclaim. Although Huat manages to be more interesting than his predecessor, his work looks rushed and unsuited to traditional superheroics. But it is Robbie Morrison's scripts that are still lacking; without Warren Ellis's epic vision or Mark Millar's political drive, this is just another hero book without any balls. (MAT) 5

Batman 618

by Loeb & Lee + Williams

<-> If only this slick-looking epic had more to offer by way of a story. An episode to avoid, as Batman wrestles with the apparently reanimated corpse of Jason Todd for the entire issue. Yet another stooge is roped into the contrived plot before the real villain steps into the open. Presumably it's still Harvey Dent under the bandages. It'd be funnier if it was Hugo Strange. (DK) 4

Batman: Gotham Knights 44

by Beatty & Robinson + Floyd

<=> Batman's grief over the death of Jason Todd still torments him, and Scott Beatty fleshes out the aftermath of *A Death in the Family* in flashback. In the *Batman Black and White* backup, Jill Thompson presents a guide to Gotham's top attractions. It's a refreshing premise, and well executed, if a little too fanciful in the details. (DK) 6

Beware the Creeper 5

by Hall & Chiang; Vertigo

<=> The schizophrenic Creeper makes one final dash for infamy after the tragic events of last issue leave her in the public's black books and the police investigation circles around her. This is a satisfying yet open-ended finale to Jason Hall's alternate take on the bizarre DC character. Hall has used the series to explore Parisian artistic culture of the 1920s while creating an engaging action mystery at the same time. Cliff Chiang's loose European-style brush work stands out though, with his darkened panels skilfully evoking the urban setting and stylish period. (MAT) 7

Cinnamon: El Ciclo 1

by van Meter & Paronzini + Campanella; Vertigo

A pistol-packing red-headed bounty hunter travels the Mexican border breaking up smugglers and drug gangs. Fortunately the 'gun-toting chick' storyline isn't blatantly titillating (though Howard Chaykin does provide cover art), but 'strong' female characters aren't anything new and Jen van Meter's script doesn't go anywhere particularly inspiring beyond the usual clichés of childhood revenge. Francisco Paronzini's stylised art is comparable to Eduardo Risso's 100 Bullets , but has a more cartoony – and therefore less appropriate – edge. (MAT) 6

Formerly Known as the Justice League 3

by Giffen + DeMatteis & Maguire + Rubinstein

<---> First Maxwell Lord appals his team by deciding upon the name of 'Super Buddies'. Then they are abducted by a villain called Roulette and forced to fight in her arena of death. Under mind control, Mary Marvel pounds the tar out of Captain Atom. This third instalment doesn't have much going for it. Dramatic convention dictates that Mary and Atom will be dating by issue #5; mark my words. (DK) 5

JLA 84

by Kelly & Mahnke + Nguyen

<+++> JLA has so many ups and downs. But when Joe Kelly's good, he's very, very good. He's refreshingly open about the private lives of the superheroes: Martian Manhunter's new domestic arrangements feature prominently, and Batman and Wonder Woman's on-off romance continues to simmer. Batman gloats at the criminally insane of Arkham Asylum overcome with remorse, but the League now faces something powerful enough to neutralise every menace on the planet. (DK) 8

The Losers 3

by Diggle & Jock; Vertigo

<+> The team acts against the Goliath Oil Company, and it all goes very wrong. This truly brilliant comic mixes sharp political comment with top-notch action sequences and clever plotting and strong characterisation. All the best bits of TV's *A-Team* and *Alias* wrapped up in Jock's expressive scritchy-scratchy art. (KG) 9

<=> Andy Diggle must have a lot of fun dreaming up the cool action sequences and dry comical dialogue that perforate this title, no matter how unrealistic they are. But hey, this is about a bunch of self-consciously cool CIA agents out to get their own back on the crooked establishment, so that's acceptable. Jock's rugged characters and blocks of solid black make this work seem easy, but it succeeds where so many other 'hip' books fall flat on their arses. (MAT) 8

Lucifer 41

by Carey & Hahn; Vertigo

A one off story, presumably to clear the reader's palate for the next course that oddly has more impact than the slightly anticlimactic finale to Naglfar. The story clears up the ultimate fate of Elaine Belloc and Mona Doyle with a gleefully sly wit. Parts of it are hilarious, but taken as a whole, it's merely very funny indeed. Nice art as well. (DM) 8

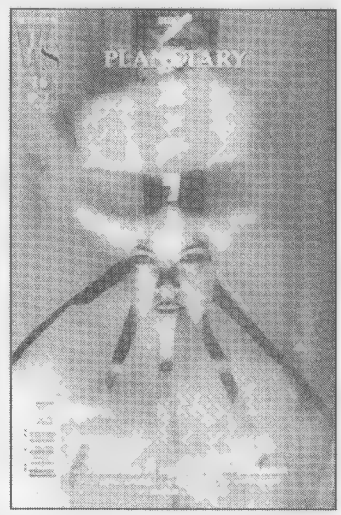
Smax 1

by Moore & Cannon; America's Best Comics

After superhero cop adventures, pulp inspired sci-fi and Victorian high-adventure, it was only a matter of time before Alan Moore tacked the well-worn clichés of the fantasy world, as the big blue giant of Top 10 begrudgingly returns home. Fortunately this being one of comics' best writers, the story manages to encompass more than the usual farcical Pratchettisms that dominate

Planetary 16

by Ellis & Cassaday; WildStorm



Once in a blue moon, when the Earth comes into alignment with Saturn or somesuch, an issue of Planetary finally arrives in comics shops all over the world. Unsurprisingly, having worked on it for so long, John Cassaday delivers some fantastically detailed action sequences, helped in no small part by Laura Martin's sumptuous colouring. Now excuse me while I check my horoscope to find out when we might see issue 17. (LN) 7

<=> Warren Ellis fans breath a collective sign of relief as the latest issue of this cult favourite finally reaches the shelves. Worth the wait? Ellis's intermittent work since the last issue has shown he isn't a consistently great writer. Unfortunately this issue's mystic Kung-Fu action shows up his reliance on genre pilfering. However as this is the title's premise, that's permissible. Cassaday's art is ridiculously sumptuous aided in no small way by Laura Martin's rich colours. Now all we await is Ellis's Ministry of Space #3! (MAT) 7

this genre. Zander Cannon's less finely detailed art may seem a letdown after Gene Ha's work, but it has a simple charm of its own. (MAT) 7

Superman: Red Son 3

by Millar & Plunkett + Wong

<=> The stunning conclusion to the Soviet Superman epic. Unlike most Elseworlds projects, writer Mark Millar has created a blistering storyline which feels like a "real" Superman tale despite its alternate universe milieu. Imaginative, thought-provoking, and beautifully illustrated by Kilian Plunkett and Walden Wong. (SH) 9

Sweatshop 5

by Bagge

<+> Mel Bowling begrudgingly accepts an invitation to Comicon '03 and takes his downtrodden workers with him, leading to a circular love affair and Mel drowning his sorrows once again. The convention setting allows Peter Bagge (who thankfully illustrates his own work again) to satirise all the obvious comic-geek stereotypes and apply his brilliantly OTT renditions to his pitiful characters' miserable lives. It also allows him to take the piss out of a certain pretentious British comicbook writer: worth the price of admission alone! (MAT) 7

Wonder Woman 195

by Rucka + Johnson

<+> Another new creative team, and another new direction. This time Diana does *The West Wing* – which is no bad thing when one remembers that it wasn't so long ago that it was Diana does *Sunset Beach*. This is an introductory, getting to know you, scene setter, and fulfils its obligations in a perfunctory but entertaining manner. There's a new cast, and a new status quo, and Rucka seems to have a firm grasp on his themes and direction; which hopefully will be brought into sharper focus once the main event begins. The biggest disappointment is Drew Johnson's art, which is not entirely up to professional standards. His anatomy and perspective are poor, and he doesn't exactly imbue his characters with any real sense of being. He may grow into the job, but I'd rather not pay to see someone learn on the go with such a high profile title. (TS) 6

Image

The Agents 4

by Gunstone & Dunn

<=> Superspy Nigel Cord uncovers some devastating truths about the world he thought he knew so well. Kevin Gunstone effectively upsets the premise of this series by hinting that the good guys are not only the bad guys, but that they did awful things in order to appear to be the good guys. The ironies and allusions are not lost on this reader. Meanwhile, Ben Dunn excels at drawing both talking heads and action sequences. (KG) 8

Battle of the Planets 11

by Sharrieff & Tortosa; Top Cow

Spectra sends a giant robot to cause havoc, but how can G-Force attack it when it has prisoners inside? Fans of the classic cartoon show will find it difficult to be disappointed with this, the comic book adventures of G-Force. With strong writing and art plus Alex Ross covers this is fresh enough to appeal equally to non-fans. (CEB) 7

Witchblade 67

by Johns & Grimminger + Benefiel; Top Cow

Sara investigates a group of cannibals but it appears they have investigated her first, as whoever controls the Witchblade will be their dream meal. Geoff Johns and Kris Grimminger provide a lively script even if the lashings of gore won't prove particularly shocking in this day and age. Scott Benefiel, with his energetic art and considered layouts provides this title with a unique identity. (CEB) 7

Witchblade Animated 1

by Dini & Bullock + Cooke; Top Cow

When a priest is murdered in the search for a mystic jewel which grants the owner complete control over The Darkness, Witchblade is sent in to investigate. Teaming up with Magdalena, she quickly discovers that absolute power corrupts absolutely. Emmy Award winner Paul Dini writes a spear-sharp script as David Bullock and Darwyn Cooke provide the requisite animation-style art. Fast-paced fun. (CEB) 7

Sara Pezzini and the Magdelena, Catholicism's enforcer, search for an ancient religious artefact, fight demons and corrupt priests in this adaptation of the animated version of the Witchblade comics. The art team initiates a mildly cartoonish style but fill it out with enough quirks and detail to make it visually engaging. The plot has enough holes to drain pasta but it's still a pleasantly enjoyable one-shot. (IM) 7

Big Bang Comics Summer Special 1

by Carlson + various

In this Golden Age tribute, the Knights of Justice battle Nazi super-stormtroopers in occupied Europe. Corny as it is, it's great fun, and hangs together well. Only Mike Kirsten and Bob Rivard's more naturalistic art pages fail to blend with the overall visual style. The superhero codename 'Supreme Allied Commando' had me in stitches. (DK) 8

The Darkness 4

by Jenkins & Keown + Cha; Top Cow

Jackie sets out to prove why he should be the new head of the Franchetti mob, but Cousin Paulie has other ideas... and a plan that will make sure even The Darkness won't get in his way. Dale Keown and Keu Cha produce some luscious art, and Paul Jenkin's introspective writing style fits in well here. Gruesomely good. (CEB) 7

Jack Staff 3

by Grist + Elliot

<=> Another bright and fun issue of Paul Grist's forgotten British superhero and the various characters and plotlines that surround him. This work has a naïve charm that modern superheroes lack, both in the story and Grist's clean linework, which explains why it has struck such a chord. Although the slow publication rate hampers the development of the overlapping story lines somewhat, Grist manages to let each issue stand on its own. (MAT) 7

Masters of the Universe Volume II #5

by Staples & Santalucia + Fontana; Image/MVCreations

<=> The evil Man-At-Arms causes chaos ... and so Skeletor wants in. Another terrific cover, another terrific story, this comic goes from strength to strength. A fan of the original or current MOTU cartoon? Give this a go. Never been a fan? Still give it a go. The talented creative team instills more inventiveness into each issue than some achieve in an entire series. (CEB) 8

Savage Dragon 110

by Larsen

<--> Dragon and his family are adrift in the Void, even as the Annihilus-analogue Deathseed leads his Absorbanoid legions toward the portal to Earth. At least Erik Larsen promises an ending next issue. Hopefully something better will follow. (DK) 4

Street Fighter 1

by Siu-Chong & various

The arcade phenomenon Street Fighter 2 might have been missed by some comic fans, but for many the game is held as closely to the heart as any superhero. Unfortunately translating this enthusiasm into a passable storyline has proven elusive to many comic publishers and anime studios (not to mention Hollywood producers). UDON Studios may have the art style to mimic the Capcom designs, but the story and dialogue are as daft as ever. However the licence was obviously enough to bring old fan-fave Joe Madureira from his exile, even if only for a rather brief four page back-up. (MAT) 6

Tomb Raider 31

by Ney Rieber & Mhan + Sibal; Top Cow

Lara Croft travels to South America to find some treasure. A few-too-many convenient plot devices there may be, but even with a strong writer like John Ney Rieber on board, this is not intended to be groundbreaking literature. What it is, is old-fashioned adventure aimed at the younger reader, and on that count, it succeeds. (CEB) 6

Tomb Raider 32

by Hughes + Bonny & Daniel + Sibal; Top Cow

<=> Three-issue adaptation of the recent, below-par videogame sequel that saw more delays than a Virgin train, as Lara Croft fights for survival while on the trail of the mystical Obscura Painting and her former ally, Von Croy. Behind Adam Hughes' striking alternate cover, the staccato-scripted plot is so far inconsistent with that of the game, but it is the generic workmanlike artwork, and its rather dated rendering, that truly disappoints. (JE) 4

Top Cow Book of Revelations 1

by Tucker & various; Top Cow

Want to know Ripclaw's eye colour, Lara Croft's first comic book appearance, or Jackie Estacado's special powers? Then this slick Top Cow character profile package is for you. Along with pencils by the likes of Marc Silvestri, Dale Keown and Jae Lee, this is hopefully the first issue of many. (CEB) 7

Marvel

Amazing Spider-Man 56

by Avery + Straczynski & Romita Jr + Hanna

<=> Peter's pupil, Melissa, gets in deeper and deeper trouble trying to find her brother who was recently released from jail. The problem? It was Spider-Man who got him arrested in the first place. Now Spidey has to put it all right, while facing the unforeseen consequences of his crime-fighting. This title suffers nothing from the guest-scripting of Fiona Avery, and John Romita Jr's elegant-yet-angled art is as in-keeping as always. (CEB) 7

Amazing Spider-Man 57

by Straczynski & Romita Jr + Hanna

<+> J. Michael Straczynski and John Romita Jr employ a long overdue traditional Marvel team-up to kick off Spidey's big birthday celebration (issue 500 – old numbering – rapidly approaching) in style. In the quest for complexity, so few creators bother any more with the fun of the brimming toy-box which is the Marvel Universe, so it's great to see powerhouse writer Straczynski setting an example. He even re-establishes one of Marvel's baddest bad guys. (CEB) 8

<+> If there's one criticism to be levelled at Straczynski, it's that, much like his *Babylon 5* TV scripts, the sophisticated writing tends to plod. However, despite not being the tightest of scribes, when JMS does move out of second gear, the mix of wit and dynamism produces an unmatched verve which this new story arc could potentially deliver. Unfortunately, the computer colours smother some of the art in digital blandness. (JE) 6

<+> Peter encounters difficult administrative

assistants and the Mindless Ones all in the same day. Straczynski knows just how to please this Spidey fan. He is quite simply getting the writing side of things exactly right. Romita Jr's art, unsurprisingly, is perfect for this comic. This is the best Spider-Man for ages. (KG) 9

<+> Peter moves from dealing with an annoyingly dogmatic school administrator to fighting alongside NYC's superheroes against interdimensional invaders, thus improving his prospects. Although Straczynski portrays an optimistically rosy view of life in the Big Apple, this fits in with Spidey's upbeat spirit and the return of a certain redhead in his life (wouldn't that leave anyone feeling perky!?). Romita Jr's portrayal of the heroes' desperate fight is as skilfully vibrant as ever, though it might just be Straczynski's excuse to get Dr Strange in the book again. (MAT) 7

Captain Marvel 13

by David & Ryan + Sotomayor

<+> In a thinly disguised critique of the current situation in Iraq, Peter David writes a tale in which Cap and Rick get involved in the plight of a 'liberated' alien race. This allows for the usual frenetic fun, and thanks to Michael Ryan and Chris Sotomayor, some fantastic art. There are great comics, and then there's Captain Marvel. (CEB) 9

<+> After the disappointing and rather daft *Coven* storyline, David takes the unhinged Marv back into space as he teaches an alien leader (with suspiciously familiar foreign policies) a thing or two. David is clearly having fun playing up the sadistic side of the character with this sarcastic script, but it would be interesting to see some plot development emerge from the title. After a mixed bag of artists, the title may have found the best replacement for the departed ChrisCross, as Ryan provides some rounded and cleanly detailed pages, brilliantly coloured by Sotomayor. (MAT) 7

Crimson Dynamo

by Miller & Ellis; Epic

This is one of the first books to be assembled by a group of unknown creators under the Epic imprint. A smart young Russian kid finds a spare Crimson Dynamo suit and the Iron Man foe becomes more like The Iron Man (the Ted Hughes story). This title has real potential but could do with losing the kid. (RC) 6

Exiles 30

by Austen & Henry + Morales

<-> Set in regular continuity for once, the Exiles and Uncanny X-Men fight an evil version of Havok, plus Maximus Lobo. It's a fun and enjoyable, if unoriginal, plot, redeemed by some hot dialogue when the teams interact, but the uneven and occasionally careless art by Clayton Henry lets it down. (IM) 7

Exiles 31

by Winick & Calafiore + Mckenna

<-> Hot Green Lantern writer Judd Winick starts his Exiles journey here, with the team fighting vampiric versions of the Avengers. Jim Calafiore's art is chunky and sometimes short on detail, while Mark McKenna's inks are blockily inarticulate; fortunately Winick's writing is cool, witty and moves swiftly: there are enough juicily scripted action scenes to suggest this will be a memorable run. (IM) 6

Daredevil 50

by Bendis & Maleev; Marvel Knights

<+> Just as Kingpin ruthlessly reasserts his hold on the New York underworld, Daredevil turns up to give him a good hiding. A whole host of artistic talent comes on board to draw one panel each of the knock-down, drag-out fight that ensues, and for that we'll ignore discrepancies of scale and costume. Very brutal action. (DK) 8

<--> Given the sublime joys of Brian Michael Bendis writing DD, and the sheer beauty of Alex Maleev's artwork, which peaked in the last issue, this 'milestone' 50th was always going to struggle to live up to the intensifying crescendo of public and critical expectations. Despite the achingly beautiful cover, this is an underwhelming issue by recent standards. The writing is brisk and fluid, but a mite predictable; Maleev's lovely grainy art works well, but the pages drawn by a gallery of former DD artists are the genuine treat. Enjoyable, yes, but anticlimactic. (IM) 7

The Man Without Fear becomes the Man to Fear as Matt finally reaches breaking point in his war on crime. Maleev's distinctively thuggish Kingpin takes a right good kicking from DD in another brutal issue from Bendis, who unfortunately now goes on hiatus just when things have got really interesting! (LN) 8

<-> After the bloody violence dolled out against Bullseye last issue, Matt looses his cool, unleashing his fury on the guy behind it all, in a disturbing fight to the finish with Kingpin. Bendis is exploring some shockingly dark aspects of superhero vigilantism with this title which Maleev's brutal artwork captures perfectly. Being a 'big number' issue, Maleev is rather conspicuously assisted by a number of DD luminaries for a disappointing sequence of panels. With two bald guys getting their heads caved in as many issues, I suspect Bendis may have self-hate issues. (MAT) 7

Fantastic Four 502

by Waid & Jones

<=> Franklin is suffering terribly from the after-effects of being trapped in Hell. Nothing seems to be able to get through to him ... so it's Uncle Ben to the rescue and a different type of clobberin' time. Reed meanwhile is working on something curious. A charming, warm and intelligent tale by one of the best FF writers of all time, Mark Waid. (CEB) 8

Fantastic Four 503

by Waid + Porter

<-> Words fail me in trying to express just how execrable the art by Howard Porter is. He may be going for a wide-screen treatment, but his figure work and attention to detail is so clumsy and unconvincing, that any sense of scale and scope Mark Waid may be attempting is defeated. The Fantastic Four invades Latveria, facing opposition from both without and within, and do it looking like a quartet of malformed, butt-ugly buffoons. I thought it was only Reed who was supposed to be disfigured (apart from blue -eyed Benjamin)? Grudgingly, I'll concede that that there is a kind of kinetic energy present, but I'd rather tear my eyes from their sockets than experience this again. (TS) 5 (for Waid)

Incredible Hulk 59

by Jones & Fernandez

<-> Possessing an innocent girl, the psychic bad guy forces the good guy into breaking his body out of prison. Said bad guy then goes on a rampage, and is too powerful to beat. The good guy tricks him into possessing a corpse with some reverse psychology, thereby trapping his mind. Then we see a baby born in China with glowing bad guy eyes. The caricatured art's not bad, but Jones definitely owes a hefty sum to the cliche box. More like the Incredible Hack... (MT) 2

New X-Men 145

by Morrison & Bachalo + Townsend

<-> Grant Morrison ends his Weapon Plus arc as Logan learns more about his past while Fantomex explains the programme's violent and sinister intentions. Frustratingly providing more questions than answers, Morrison's cryptic plotting and explosive ending leaves you wishing for more of a resolution. Meanwhile Chris Bachalo's art is even worse than usual, with awkward and indecipherable panels and contortedly ugly character designs all buried under mountains of ink and CGI colour effects. (MAT) 6

Runaways 5

by Vaughan & Alphona + Newbold

<-->The 'gang' try to rescue Molly from her parents, holding her hostage against their return. Brain K Vaughan's script is wavering a little, the dialogue less snappy. This is the first indifferent issue, waiting for the real story to climax. Adrian Alphona's art is deeply charming but David Newbold's inks can be clumsy. Flaws aside, I look forward to wherever this title leads. (IM) 4

The Sentinel 4

by McKeever & Udon + Vriens

<-> Juston takes his 'pet' Sentinel for a test drive and avoids his bullies' schemes. This promising title is running out of time to find its feet. Still developing central plot strands, it's hard to figure what this title wants to be beyond the slowly-unfolding teen school drama. The comic has a big, loveable heart, driven by Sean McKeever's affectionate interpretations of several key, deftly-realised characters, but he needs to play to the book's strengths and move things on. (IM) 6

Thor 67

by Jurgens & Fiumara + Smith

<-> So now that Thor has killed Jake Olson, he is unworthy of wielding Mjolnir. Are we seeing the Thunder God becoming a villain? Dan Jurgens continues to agravate the Lord of Asgards predicament (if somewhat slowly). Too many artist changes on one book, although Max Fiumara exhibits Jae Lee tendencies in his favour. (CDB) 6

Ultimate Spider-Man 44

by Bendis & Bagley + Thibert

<-> Aunt May searches for the missing (as she thinks) Peter Parker. He, as Spider-Man, gets friendly with the X-Men. Their action scenes, left over from #43, are predictably unexciting. May has become a sympathetic and affectionate character, well-related by Brian Michael Bendis, and currently the best thing about this title. Mark Bagley's art is enjoyably clean – but overall this issue is, hopefully, in only a temporary lull. (IM) 6

Uncanny X-Men 429

by Austen & Tan + Avalon

<+> Philip Tan's beautifully textured artwork has become the strongest feature of this X-title; the lovingly drawn detail engenders depth and complexion to Chuck Dixon's intriguing plot. A stronger scripting hand is needed to clarify early scenes, but the tense and revealing dialogue when Xavier and Juggernaut argue redeems plenty. With the start of a new plotline, apparently exploring Nightcrawler's origins, it's a good time to remember the Uncanny. (IM) 8

X-Men Unlimited 50

by Koike + Kaji & Smith

<->This Wolverine tale about a mystical sword is distinctly uninspired and it's score is rescued only by some remarkably fetching art – Paul Smith's expressions and backgrounds are occasionally exquisite in evocation and in their detail. There are plenty of action scenes but this tale adds little to Wolverine's lore and is perhaps best overlooked. (IM) 4

X-Statix 12

by Milligan & Allred + Bond

<+> Dead Girl encounters the darker side of hero worship. The strain is starting to show in this normally excellent series. Peter Milligan tries to tackle too many subjects at once, leading to a scattered and confused treatment of some very good ideas. The art is as excellent and idiosyncratic as ever, but overall this issue diappoints. (KG) 7

The self-centered celebs of X-Statix are hindered in completing their latest assignment by Dead Girl's modelling activities. Milligan mixes the fashion industry's promotion of unrealistic body types with the impressionable nature of teenage girls to typically black comic effect. Philip Bond's inks erode some of Mike Allred's cartoonish style, but tiny touches like El Guapo's ever-present skateboard are still intact. (LN) 7

<-> After the finer lines of the previous issue, Bond's rather messier inking looks somewhat out of place against the Allred style. Milligan's script also seems to have lost its bite, for this odd tale concentrating on the team's zombie with model looks, Deadgirl, who teaches us nothing more subversive than that necrophilia isn't very nice, m'kay? (MAT) 7

X-Treme X-Men 29

by Claremont & Kordey + Hanna

<-->The initially promising Mount Haven 'saga' runs on and on: Wolverine's dead. Yeah, right. Cannonball fights Deathstrike, then the mind-controlled Storm. Chris Claremont shows little originality with this tedious plot, at its nadir when the Jewish Shadowcat quotes Christian scripture! Scott Hanna's dense inking further smothers Igor Kordey's occlusive pencils, realising disrelishing visuals. (IM) 3

US Indies

Gold Digger: Swimsuit Special 6

by Babiar & various; Antarctic Press

<=> Mary Bellamy, Mark Harris, Matthew Cox and Kilowatt – among others – turn in some stylish pinups based on Fred Perry's Gold Digger family. There's also a few comic strips for good measure. Look for some of these names to make a splash on the manga scene. (CEB) 6

How to Draw Manga 25

by Espinosa & Lotfi + Jackson; Antarctic Press

Another issue of this ongoing instruction series. Here, Neotopia's Rod Espinosa takes us through drawing a dragon, Sherard Jackson discusses designing transforming robots, and Sam "Rehd" Lotfi looks at character creation. Clearly written and presented, this is an ideal study for all beginner comic book artists. (CEB) 7

Love Fights 3

by Watson; Oni Press

<=> In addition to concerns about comic art deadlines and his blossoming relationship with committed journalist Nora, Jack also has to deal with his pet cat's emerging superpowers! Although this could be dismissed as another 'heroville' title where normal life rubs shoulders with the world of capes and spandex, Andi Watson instils the genre with more pathos. He successfully manages to bring his skill – shown in his more realistic recent work – at capturing characters' emotional lives into the whimsical fantasies and comical situations of his earlier work. (MAT) 7

Love Hina 1

by Akamatsu; TokyoPop; $9.99

Keitaro is as successful with girls as he is with his studies... which is not very. Trying desperately to get into university he goes to his grandmother's to study, only to find himself the new owner of her girls' dorm. As he goes from one disaster to another, Keitaro begins to suspect one of the girls may be his childhood sweetheart. Energetic manga ideal for the teenage reader. (CEB) 7

Ninja High School 107

by Bair & Bevard; Antarctic Press

<=> They say people often produce their finest work under pressure. This is certainly the case for creator Katie Bair who completed this issue from start to finish in the space of a week. With a horde of mongooses over-running the island, the proceedings are more manic than usual... and that's saying a lot! An extremely well-written, proficiently-pencilled and always amusing comic. (CEB) 8

Posefile Reference 1

by GURU-eFX & Hartman; Antarctic Press

A photo reference manual designed to aid both aspiring and established comic book artists. Each superhero-like pose – made by a real-life model – is made up of twenty-four images taken from three different height levels and from multiple "Matrix style" angles. Another useful addition to Antarctic Press's How To series. (CEB) 6

Twilight X: Storm 4

by Wight; Antarctic Press

<=> With his European-meets-Asian style, Joseph Wight is an accomplished master of telling a story through facial expressions alone. In this issue, which moves from Toots' love-triangle to a heated jungle battle, Wight shows that his mastery of panel layout is equally developed. He doesn't stop there, however: the opening scene proves he can do the cinematic as well as anyone. Skilful adventure. (CEB) 7

Warrior Nun Areala 18

by Zicari & Babiar; Antarctic Press

<=> Pillage and Plunder attack the Vatican and capture Areala. Taking her back to their boss, Seethe, all hope of victory seems lost when he refuses to play by the traditional hero-villain rules. Craig Babiar's art is a real joy to behold, while Anthony Zicari more than pulls his weight with a solid story, intriguing sub-plots and lots of wit. (CEB) 7

Wish 1

by Nekoi & Ohkawa; TokyoPop; $9.99

Shuichiro is a doctor, wanting of nothing. Then he rescues Kohaku – an angel – who, desperate to repay him, discovers that she cannot. Frustrated by both this and her failing mission to find her master on Earth, it soon comes to light that she holds the power to avert a war between heaven and hell. This carefully crafted manga tale is by the female creative team of Mick Nekoi and Nanase Ohkawa, who bring to it a wide-readership appeal. (CEB) 7

Canadian Indies

Cerebus 293

by Sim & Garhard

Old and semi-senile, Cerebus dodders closer to his 300th issue finishing line. Say what you like about Dave Sim and his rants, his comic continues to play with the medium in a way few others are prepared to. Cerebus is bound to stand the test of time as a singular achievement of a truly driven creator. (RC) 7

JLA/Avengers 1

by Busiek & Perez; Marvel/DC

The two super teams are drawn into a nefarious plot and face off against each other. The fact that this all builds up to the cliched superhero fight is a shame as Kurt Busiek does an excellent job of rationalisng the situation. That said, this is very well written, and George Perez, freed from the pressures of a monthly deadline, produces some of his best ever work. (KG) 8

The long-awaited crossover finally arrives, and Busiek's storyline is suitably cosmic without getting too portentous. Amusingly, the JLA thinks the Marvel Universe is a highly bigoted place, while the Avengers see the DC Universe as being in thrall to its super-powered protectors. Perez's artwork is excellent, and this is one of the better Marvel/DC projects to date. (SH) 7

This starts so badly, you wonder if it isn't a complete waste of paper until about page 30. Villains cross over between the Marvel and DC universes, so the Avengers battle Starro the Conqueror. Grandmaster and Metron send the rival teams questing for 10 magic items, as in a lame computer game. The saving grace is the horror with which the JLA regard the Marvel Universe. Oh, the humanity! (DK) 5

Well, it's no literary masterpiece, that's for sure, with plots lifted from countless similar comics before. All the usual boxes are ticked; Universe spanning threat? Check. A quest for various objects of power? Check. Teams controlled by a higher power? Check. Misunderstandings and punch-ups? Check. All this gives the story a slightly shop worn feel. The most fun will come from future interaction between the two teams, but for now there are a few nice moments not to be sniffed at; Batman taking the Punisher to the cleaners between panels was priceless. The trick is to imagine that you're a 13 year old again (hard for some of us, I know), put aside any cynical reservations, and just go with the flow. Perez does his usual thing, and certainly won't disappoint his many devoted fans. (TS) 7

Perhaps it's that I've never really enjoyed DC's heroes, or because we'd already seen a glut of bad company crossovers during the mid-90s that this team-up didn't really capture my imagination. Busiek's para-dimensional threat and questing heroes comically butting heads leaves it looking like little more than a perfunctory exercise in fan concession. However, with Perez's return to the project – providing his skilfully wrought renditions of these cultural legends – there is much to recommend it. (MAT) 7

Transformers: Generation One Volume 2 #5

by Mick & Lee + Armstrong + Garcia + Poblete; DreamWave

<=> Prime does his hero thing, but even he is unprepared for Shockwave's bizarre plan. This series continues to surprise and please with its familiar-but-not plotting and solid characterisation. On the other hand, Pat Lee's art continues to be a turn-off, but the writing manages to rise above his inappropriate art. (KG) 7

Transformers/G.I.Joe 1

by Ney Rieber & Lee; DreamWave

John Ney Rieber and Jae Lee put their artistic credibilities on the line for Dreamwave's version of the 80s toy crossover. It proves to be one of the most intriguing of the recent spate of 'nostalgia' comics by dumping the rose-tinted memories and setting the conflict during WWII. Jae Lee lets loose his noirish creativity to illustrate the characters' retro designs, while Ney Rieber provides a suitably dark storyline for the action to take place in, creating a surprisingly brilliant comic. (MAT) 8

UK Newsstand

Commando 3647

by unknown; DC Thomson

<+> Return of the Gladiator comes as a welcome diversion from standard Commando World War II fare. A rollicking tale of honour and betrayal with more than a passing resemblance to cinematic Roman epics like Gladiator and Ben-Hur. (SM) 8

Dandy 3225

by various; DC Thomson

This bestselling children's title continues to go from strength to strength, combining the iconic adventures of Desperate Dan alongside more recent recruits like Pinky's Crackpot Circus and cat/dog rivals, Puss 'n' Boots. Terrific fun. (SM) 8

Futurama Comics 6

by various; Titan Magazines; £1.99

Cannily timed to coincide with the opening of *Terminator 3*, here comes... The Bendernator ("Hasta La Vista, Meatbag!"). Reprinting the cancelled Bongo Comics title, stretching out content to a bi-monthly schedule, it fails to have the mass appeal of its Simpsons sister title. A clever story, but the first snigger isn't until page 13. The Bongo bullpen could learn a lot about pacing from The Beano. (TM) 6

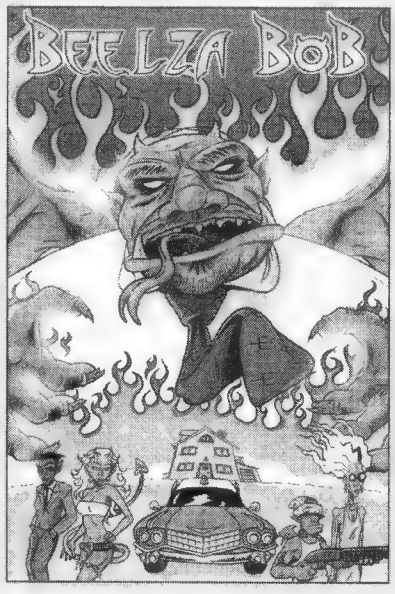
Judge Dredd Megazine 210

by various; Rebellion

<-> *Hong Tong* descends into movie-style ultra-violence and gunplay. With understated humour, Judge Death muses bleakly on the task ahead of him. Devlin Waugh drags on. The finale of *Darkie's Mob* reveals both

Beelza Bob 1

by Miers & Black;
Comics Conspiracy



The cool comic of the year, this light-hearted but insightful competition for souls between Bob and Jesus is hilarious, blasphemous but remarkably good fun. The humour is by turns dark, thoughtful and knockabout and provides great enjoyment of a subject often taken too seriously: Doug Miers doesn't seem to be pushing an agenda – everyone here is open to ridicule. The artwork is cartoony but delightfully expressive and perfectly suits the thought-provoking writing. Tremendous fun, Miers' story and dialogue is fantastic – Beelza Bob thoroughly deserves to become a regular series. Unmissable. (IM) 9

Darkie's origin and his fate. The highlight of this issue is the *Bendatti Vendetta* flashback that traces a path of vengeance for Nazi death camp crimes to an apartment block in Chile, while Faulkner joins the clandestine society. (DK) 7

2000 AD
Progs 1353-1356

by various; Rebellion

<-> 2000 AD has been a bit of a curate's egg lately: good and bad in places. *The Satanist* is one of the most disappointing Judge Dredd stories ever; and *Leviathan*, while enjoyable, shows flourishes of originality only when not reading like a retread of *Killing Time*. Thus it falls to Slaine and Strontium Dog to carry the torch of thrill-power. *Beck & Kawl* is just excrement. (DK) 6

Small Press

BAM 25

by Cobley + Mitzi
& Ewing + various;
£2.50 + 50p (p&p) from J. Cobley
94 Elm Road, Wisbech
Cambridgeshire PE13 2TB

<=> Under a cool colour cover by Mitzi are all the usual favourites: *Bulldog*, *The Rainbow Orchid*, and *Mer-Tropolis*. Along with the action and adventure are some sharp comical touches, particularly when Winston Bulldog meets his evil twin. A small press comic that packs more punch than many mainstream titles. (CEB) 8

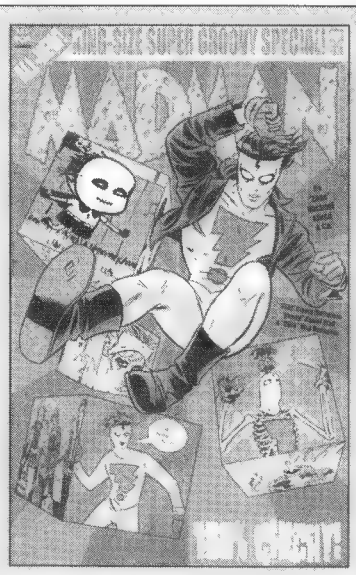
Comics Advertiser 1

by CAOF Comics;
free from CAOF Comics
10 Cleveland Avenue
High Ercall, Telford
Shropshire TF6 6AH

And so it goes full circle. The original 1960s comics adzine called itself Fantasy Advertiser, wanting to sound upmarket. Almost 40 years later, the rejected title makes an appearance in a bold move, being A4 with full colour throughout. Not a meaty start unfortunately, 12 pages with only one (dull, irrelevent, self-congratulatory) article. Editor/publisher Shane Chebsey follows this very magazine's route by launching as a giveaway to build circulation, but he may need more worthwhile editorial to encourage paid advertisers to take it seriously. Comic & Toy Marketplace launched as a slick giveaway from the guys at Chaos City a few years back with 68 pages... but it never made it to a second issue. (TM) 5

Madman King-Size Super Groovy Special

by Allred & various;
AAA Pop Comics/Oni Press



Yeah hey, Madman's back!! After his much more cynical collaboration on X-Statix, its nice to see Mike Allred return to the naïve charm of the resurrected 'super'-hero. Even though he deals with dark issues such as the attempted revitalization of a deluded scientist's daughter, the inquisitive innocence of Frank Einstein remains. Other creators offer their own interpretations of the character: Daniel Krall's stylish art explores how others view Frank; Nick Derington shows how Frank's playful world may be a delusion, while Steve Weissman's child-like art shows Frank remains a kid at heart. (MAT) 8

COMIX
THE UNDERGROUND REVOLUTION

. . . is the title of the book CI's editorial team has been working on between issues for the last few months, and it's coming along a treat!

Hunt Emerson's done the cover, Denis Kitchen wrote the foreword, Trina Robbins covered Wimmen's Comix and we've filled in the gaps, ably assisted by a whole bunch of high profile reprobates.

But we're still missing a few key titles that we'd like to beg, borrow or buy to enhance the 288 pages of full colour visuals. So, if you have any of the following UK titles, please email us at *editorial@comics international.com* or phone 01273 566 222 and we'll all be eternally grateful.

Brainstorm Comix (all) **Near Myths** (all)
Home Grown #4-10 **Electric Soup** (various)
Cozmic Comix & **Nasty Tales** (various)

£7500

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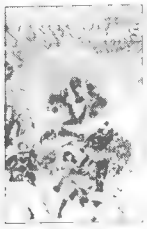
www.compalcomics.com

50% off all prices shown: Quality Comics, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ 01273 566 222



A STUPENDOUS SELECTION OF SIZZLING SIXTIES STOCK!

SILVER AGE GEMS

FROM QUALITY, 345 DITCHLING ROAD, BRIGHTON BN1 6JJ

MARVEL

Amazing Adventures
Vol 2 #8 vg+ 4.00
Adams Avengers, off 1 staple
17 fn- 3.50
origin of Beast, 1/2" masking tape on spine

Amazing Spider-Man
22 vfn-, ¢ 130.00

Astonishing Tales
18-20 fn- 1.50

Daredevil
176 nm- 4.00
179 nm- 4.00
180 nm- 4.00
190 nm- *(giant; Miller)* 3.00

Fantastic Four
3 vg+ 245.00
p; some spine scuffing; 2 corner creases almost fn-
6 fn+ 325.00
p, faint creasing on edges & very light sub crease, but very little wear, almost vfn-
20 fn+ 62.50
slight spine roll
22 fn- 27.50
2 x light book stamps 8" biro, light spine creasing
27 vg+ 24.50
spine & bottom creases
30 fn- 19.50
bottom spine 1 4"tear bottom corner crease
36 fn- 16.00
¢; 10d stamp; several cover and one corner crease
42 fn+ 13.50
cover corner creases & some lower spine wear
43 vfn- 24.00
slight spine wear
44 fn- 12.50
99 fn+ 5.50
(small tear from sticker having been removed)

Fantastic Four Annuals
5 fn+ *(¢)* 30.00
1st Surfer solo; UK 1/9 stamp

Howard the Duck
2 nm 3.00
3 nm 2.50
4 nm 2.50
5 nm 2.50
6 nm 2.50

Iron Man
5 vfn- 19.50

Journey Into Mystery
80 fn- 25.00
95 vg 20.00

Journey into Mystery Annual
1 fn- 30.00
¢ copy 1/6d stamp, slight spine crease, small circle stain where dealer price label removed

Kull The Conqueror
9 vfn+ *(¢ copy)* 2.50

Marvel Two-In-One
17 nm 3.50

Marvel Premiere
5 vfn+ 3.50
¢ copy Dr. Strange

Strange Tales
78 vfn 72.00
104 fn 36.00
106 vfn 67.50
109 vfn- 60.00
110 vg 145.00
1st Doctor Strange; Steve Ditko
114 vfn- 135.00
Dr Strange series begins; Captain America tryout
115 vfn- 160.00
origin of Doctor Strange, Steve Ditko art
117 vfn 30.00
119 vfn- 37.50
Spider-Man appearance
122 fn+ 16.50
125 vg *marked cover* . 9.00
127 vg+ 12.00
129 fn+ 11.50
131 vg+ 7.50
132 vg *marked cover* . 6.50
134 vg 7.00
135 fn- 19.50
1st Nick Fury-Agent of SHIELD
136 fn- 9.00
137 fn- 9.00
139 vg 5.00
143 fn 6.50
144 fn 6.50
146 fn- 5.50
light shop stamp
148 vg- 6.00
origin of The Ancient One
150 vg+ 5.00
152 vg+ 5.50
156 vg *(marked cvr)* . 4.50

Tales of Suspense
1 fn 320.00
Ditko & Williamson strips
10 vg+ 33.00
22 vg- *(Grogg!)* 23.50
26 fn 39.00
28 fn 39.00
31 vg 26.00
32 fn 40.00
Man in Beehive, companion to Tales to Astonish's Man in Ant-Hill, some Marvel chipping
35 vg+ 21.00
slight Marvel chipping
36 vg+ 24.50
37 vg 24.00
41 vg 110.00
43 vg 55.00
44 vg 52.00
subscription crease
45 fn+ 85.00
49 vg+ 42.00
3rd appearance X-Men
54 vg 12.50
63 vg 30.00
Origin of Captain America
64 vg 11.00
shop stamp
65 vg- 16.50
1st Silver Age Red Skull, slight shop stamp
66 vg 12.50
origin of Red Skull
79 vg- 5.00
80 fn 7.50
cover surface tear
86 vg- 4.50
88 vg- 4.50

Tales to Astonish
12 fn- 60.00
19 fn- 50.00
20 vg+ 32.00
22 fn- 33.00
23 vg+ 28.50
24- vg+ 25.00
25 vg+ 25.00
26 fn *shop stamp* 35.50
29 fn 39.00
32 fn- 34.00
33 vg 25.00
34 fn 38.00
36 fn+ 143.00
2nd (costumed) Ant-Man issue
37 vg+ 50.00
38 fn 75.00
42 fn+ 54.50
43 vg+ 36.00
44 fn 51.00
1st app & origin The Wasp
45 fn+ 32.00
some Marvel chipping
46 vg- *(taped spine)* 18.00
47 vg+ 23.00
48 vg- 20.00
55 vg+ 8.00
small piece out of cover
58 vg 12.50
59 fn- 27.00
copy, small biro number
69 fn 11.50
74 fn- 4.50
book stamps felt tip 4p
75 fn- 8.00
81 fn 8.50
83 fn 8.50
84 fn 8.50
85 fn 7.50
small piece out of cover
89 fn 5.50
small piece out of cover
96 fn 7.50

Thor the Mighty
115 vg *(10d stamp)* 12.00
116 fn- *(¢; 10d stamp)* 12.50
117 vg- 3.50
¢; 10d stamp; 1" piece torn out of back cover and final page
120 fn- 12.50
2 bk stamps small 4p in biro
122 fn 14.00
123 fn- 12.50
132 vg 3.50
133 fn- 10.00
¢ copy scarce,
141 fn- 5.50
2 light shop stamps
146 fn- *(biro 6)* 5.50
148 fn- *(¢ copy)* 5.50
169 fn+ 12.50
¢, 1/4" corner gone
174 fn- 4.00
off 1 staple, light sub crease

Two-Gun Kid
65 g 1.00
68 vg- 2.75
69 vg+ 3.25
74 vg+ 3.25
75 vg+ *(Kirby)* . 4.25

Weird Wonder Tales
7 vfn+ 3.00
9 vfn+ 3.00
10 vfn+ 3.00

X-Men, The Uncanny
10 vg+ 35.00
(1st Silver Age appearance of Ka-Zar, Kirby artwork)
111 vfn- 10.00

X-Men Special Edition
1 nm 9.50

X-Men + Teen Titans
1 nm *(1st edition)* . 7.50

INDIE TITLES

Adventures of the Fly *(Archie)*
5 fn+ 16.50
red ink "9" written on comic code seal
7 fn- 14.50
1st Silver Age Black Hood
9 fn 15.50
10 fn 15.50
12 fn- 9.00
17 fn+ 11.00
22 fn 6.50
25 vfn- 16.00

Adventures of the Jaguar *(Archie)*
1 fn- 27.50
origin and first appearance
3 fn- 15.00
4 fn *(Cat Girl)* 13.00
5 fn- 8.00
(rolled spine)
6 fn+ 9.50
7 vg+ 5.50
8 fn- 8.50

Big Hero Adventures
(Harvey, Jigsaw)
2 vfn- 3.50

Black Cat *(Harvey)*
10 vg+ 28.00
22 fn 32.00
small piece of bottom of cover gone
25 vg+ 24.00
63 fn+ 24.00
Giant issue (1962)
64 vg 15.00
Giant; 2 shop stamps
65 vg+ 16.50
Giant

Charlie Chan
(Prize)
1 fn+ 160.00
1948, Simon & Kirby cover, Infantino art, small spine tears. Beautiful flat cover

Doctor Solar
(Gold Key)
5 vfn- 24.00
1st appearance in costume

Double Life of Private Strong
(Archie; 1959)
2 fn- *(Kirby)* 57.50

E-Man *(Charlton; Joe Staton)*
5 fn+ 2.00
7 vfn- 3.75
8 vfn- 3.75
9 fn+ 2.50

Fighting American
(Prize)
4 fn- *(1954)* . 200.00
¢ copy, Simon & Kirby,

Fly Man *(Archie)*
32-33 vfn *(¢)* ... 15.00
34 vfn- *(¢)* 9.50
34 fn *(¢)* 5.00
light subscription crease
35 vfn 10.00
¢ copy, origin of Black Hood

Heroes, Inc.
1 vfn 7.50
¢, 1969 Ditko-Wood

Hollywood's Secrets of Romance
9 vfn- 10.00
¢ copy, 1963 IW reprint title

Magnus Robot Fighter *(Gold Key)*
2 vfn 56.25
3 fn- 34.00
4 vfn- 40.00
5 vg 20.00
6 vg+ 16.50
7 fn+ 18.00
marked cover
8 fn- 20.00
12 vfn- 21.50
13 vfn 24.00
14 vg+ 8.50
15 vfn 17.00
marked cover
16 nm 26.50
17 fn 12.00
marked cover
18 nm 26.50
19 nm- 25.00
20 vg- 5.00
torn cover
21 vfn 12.50
22 nm 16.00
origin retold, reprint #1
24 nm- 15.00
25 vfn- 14.50
26 nm 16.00
28 vfn- 12.00
31 nm 8.00

Man in Black called Fate
(1950s Bob Powell Harvey title)
1 apparent fn- . 20.00
(part black cover area touch up)
2 vg+ 17.50
3 vfn- 37.00
4 vfn- 37.00

My Favourite Martian
(Gold Key)
9 vfn- 15.00
very slight rolled spine

Peter Cannon Thunderbolt
(Charlton)
51 vfn+ 8.00
53 vfn- 3.00
55 vfn- 3.00
57 vfn- 3.00

Tor *(St John Publishing; 1954)*
3 vfn- 36.00
Joe Kubert, small pencil number

DC COMICS

Action Comics
121 vg 50.00
221 vg 22.00
225 vg+ 36.00
(taped back cover)
485 vfn- 1.00
Kryptonite Nevermore
565 nm 1.25
Ambush Bug
643 nm 0.75
#1 cover homage

Adventure Comics
127 vg+ 62.00
Vigilante by Kubert; Tommy Tomorrow strip begins
132 fn+ 80.00
135 fn+ 80.00
156 fn+ 55.00
158 vfn- 82.00
160 fn 60.00
162 fn+ 55.00
(marked cover)
171 fn 52.00
176 fn+ 48.00
188 fn- 30.00
browning; 3" spine split
193 fn- 39.00
194 vfn- 67.00
195 fn 42.00
Lana's Marsboy romance
208 vg- 20.00
corner nibbled
246 fn+ 42.00
247 nm 1.00
reprint 1st Legion
260 vg 60.00
1st Silver Age origin of Aquaman
295 fn 11.50
297 vg+ 8.50

All American Men of War
36 vg- 15.00
108 fair-gd 1.00
110 fair-gd 1.00
111 fair-gd 1.00
112 vg+ 4.00
113 fr 1.00

Aquaman
2 fn+ 45.00
slight cvr restoration
3 vg+ 22.00
5 fn- 24.00
6 fn 18.00
7 fn 18.00
8 fn+ 19.50
9 fn- 16.50
Sea Devils crossover
10 vg 12.50
13 vg- 6.75
17 fn 11.25
18 fn+ 12.50
19 vg+ 8.25
21 vg- 6.25
22 fn+ 11.75
23 fn+ 11.75
28 vg 7.00
31 vfn 12.00
32 vfn- 10.75
33 fn+ 13.25
1st Aquagirl
34 vfn- 10.75
35 vfn 14.00
37 fn 5.00
39 vfn- 12.00
last Nick Cardy art
42 fn- 4.50
45 fn+ 5.50
47 fn- 4.50
48 fn 5.00
49 fn 5.00
53 vg+ 1.50
56 fn- 2.00
59 fn+ 3.50

The Atom
2 vg- 45.00
3 fn- 40.00
7 vg- 31.50
1st Atom-Hawkman
8 vg- 14.00
book stamp mark on cvr
9 vg+ 16.50
10 vg 15.00
11 vg- 9.00
12 vg- 8.00
bk stamp mark on cvr
13 fn 15.00
14 fn- 13.50
15 fn- 13.50
16 fn- 10.00
19 vg 7.00
light book stamp
21 fn 10.50
22 fg 2.50
23 fn+ 11.50
24 fn- 9.50
25 vg- 7.00
28 vg- 5.50
29 vg- 14.50
1st Golden Age Atom appearance
36 fn+ 11.50
Golden Age Atom

Batman
17 fn- 338.00
small cvr nicks patched
33 fn+ 250.00
shop stamp
47 vg- 280.00
rolled spine, off 1 staple good flexible pages, classic cover; Batman origin expanded
52 vg+ 142.00
Joker cover and story small cover tear
83 vg- 60.00
loose covers
86 fn- 100.00
90 fn- 80.00
small piece out back cvr
98 fn- 75.00
small triangular (corner) piece out bottom of front cover
112 vg+ 35.00
taped spine
148 vg- 20.00
156 fn *(warped)* 11.00

Batman Annuals
1 vg+ 88.00
2 vg 31.50
(taped spine)

Blackhawk
29 vg+ 50.00
201 vg 1.75

Brave and Bold
2 vg, ¢ 135.00
3 vg 65.00
(1" cvr tear, ¢)
4 g+ 44.50
(taped spine, ¢)
5 vfn- *(¢)* ... 250.00
6 vg 45.00
(taped spine, ¢)
7 vg+ *(¢)* 55.00
8 fn *(¢)* 80.00
9 fn *(¢)* 80.00
10 fn- 70.00
(2" tape spine; ¢)
11 fn *(¢)* 60.00
12 fn *(¢)* 60.00
13 vg+ 42.50
(biro price, ¢)
14 fn- *(¢)* 50.00
15 fn- *(¢)* 50.00
16 fn- *(¢)* 50.00
18 fn+ *(¢)* 65.00
19 vg *(¢)* 40.00
20 fn- *(¢)* 50.00
21 fn+ *(¢)* 65.00
22 vfn- *(¢)* 175.00
23 fn- *(¢)* 70.00
25 fn+ *(¢)* 75.00
1st Suicide Squad
29 vg+ *(¢)* 225.00
2nd JLA, taped spine; biro price on cover
30 vg *(pence)* 175.00
3rd Justice League
31 vfn- *(¢)* 135.00
1st Cave Carson
32 vg- 27.50
2nd Cave Carson
33 fn *(¢)* 40.00
3rd Cave Carson
35 fn *(¢)* 120.00
Hawkman by Kubert
36 vg- *(¢)* 60.00
Hawkman by Kubert
38 apparent fn 35.00 ..... *Suicide Squad, cover restored, book stamp*
39 vg *(¢)* 30.00
Suicide Squad
40 g+ 11.00
Cave Carson
41 vg 20.00
Cave Carson
42 vfn- 100.00
Hawkman by Kubert
44 vfn- 100.00
Hawkman by Kubert
46 fn+ 13.25
2nd Strange Sports
47 fn 13.00
3rd Strange Sports
49 vfn- 24.00
5th Strange Sports
50 vg 22.50
1st team up; Green Arrow & J'onn J'onzz
53 fn+ 14.50
Atom & Flash by Toth
54 vfn- *(¢)* 85.00
1st Titans tryout, slight browning
57 fn+ *(¢)* 32.00
1st Metamorpho
62 vg 10.00
Starman and Black Canary

Captain Action
1 vfn- 30.00
2 fn 8.00
3 fn 8.00
4 fn 8.00
5 fn 8.00

Challengers of the Unknown
6 vg 65.00
Kirby & Wood art Slight clr restoration
9 fn+ 66.00
10 vg 40.00
14 vg- 27.00
origin of Multi Man
15 fn- 40.00
16 vg 30.00
17 fn- 33.75
18 vg 25.00
1st Cosmo Challengers pet
19 fn- 33.75
23 fn 18.75
24 vfn- 40.00
25 fn+ 20.50
29 vg 12.50
30 g+ 6.75
32 vg 7.00
33 vfn 15.50
34 vg 7.00
35 vg- 6.25
36 vfn+ 17.00
37 fn- 8.50
(marked cover)
38 vfn 15.00
39 fn+ 7.00
40 vfn 15.50
45 fn+ 4.00
49 fn- 3.50
marked cover
50 vg+ 3.00
52 vg+ 2.75
53 fn- 3.00
small corner piece of cover gone
54 fn+ 4.25
57 vg+ 2.75
60 fn- 3.50
Red Ryan returns
66 vfn 3.00
67 fn- 2.00

Challengers of the Unknown *(Super DC Giant)*
S25 vg 2.00
Kirby-Wood reprints

Christmas With The Superheroes
2 nm- 1.75
Enemy Ace, Deadman

Crisis on Infinite Earths
8 nm- 7.50
Death of The Flash

Crisis on Infinite Earths Index
1 nm- 1.50

Detective Comics
213 vg+ 165.00
215 fn- 85.00
subscription-like crease
217 fn- 90.00
219 fn- 90.00
222 vg- 61.50
223 fn 100.00
225 nm- 0.75
Silver Age Classic
226 fn- 240.00
cover faded, 2nd Martian Manhunter
227 vg+ 92.00
228 fn- 102.00
tape on lower staple
233 fn- 242.00
1st Bat-Woman
237 fn- 81.00
243 fn- 68.00
248 fn- 52.25
¢ Subscription crease
249 fn 75.00
251 fn- 57.00
rolled spine
255 fn- 63.00
257 vg+ 50.00
265 fn- 77.00
Batman origin with new facts
270 vfn- 81.00
273 fn+ 36.00
slight cover retouching
276 fn+ 43.50
2nd appearance of Bat Mite
277 vfn- 54.00
283 fn+ 33.50
288 fn+ 33.00
290 fn+ 33.00
291 vg 20.00
293 vg+ 16.50
296 fn- 21.00
small signature on cover
297 vg- 13.50
300 vg 15.00
cover restoration
598 nm 5.00
599 nm 2.50
600 nm 3.00

The Flash
117 vg 20.00
taped spine
136 fn 20.00
140 vg+ 14.00
141 fn- 13.50
142 fn+ 16.50
148 vfn 25.00
150 fn- 13.50
160 vfn- 32.50
80pg Giant #21
160 fn+ 18.50
80pg Giant #21

50% off all prices shown: Quality Comics, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ · 01273 566 222

164 fn+ 9.00
166 vg+ 7.75
167 vg+ 7.75
171 vg 6.00
173 vg- 5.50
174 vg 6.00
final Infantino issue

Flash Annual
1 fn- 62.50

Green Lantern
30 vg- 13.50
31 vg- 13.50
32 fn+ 22.00
35 vfn- 30.00
37 vg 13.00
40 fn++ 95.00
origin Guardians, Crisis, 1st Golden Age GL appearance
44 vg 10.00
46 vg 10.00

Hawkman
4 g+ 6.00
5 vg 8.00
(shop stamp)
11 vg 6.00
15 vg 6.00
19 fn- 7.25
spine colour retouch

House of Mystery
48 fn- *(1956)* 25.00 87
fn 12.50 *water wrinkled*
88 fn- 15.00
89 fn 15.00
subscription crease
91 fn 16.00
92 fn+ 18.00
93 fn+ 18.00
95 fn+ 18.00
96 fn+ 18.00
100 vg 11.00
107 fn 14.50
108 vg+ 11.00
109 fn 14.50
110 vg 10.00
112 fn- 13.50
114 vfn- 22.00
marked cover
115 vg+ 10.00
117 vg 8.00
118 vg- 7.00
123 vg- 8.00
126 fn+ 15.00
130 vg+ 9.50
134 vg+ 7.00
135 vg+ 7.00
138 fn+ 12.00
146 fn+ 13.25

House of Secrets
2 g+ 38.50
4 fn+ 17.00
small cover burn, some browning
31 vfn- 27.50
33 fn 16.00

Justice League of America
3 vg 110.00
slight nibbling to edge
6 fn- 56.50
7 vg 40.00
11 fn+ 50.00
12 fn+ 50.00
13 vfn- 60.00
grade lowered from vfn only by faint subscrip-tion-like crease
14 fn+ 50.00
Atom joins JLA
19 30.00
apparent fn- *(slight cover retouching)*
20 fn 37 50
23 fn- 17.75
24 vg- 11.25
25 fn 18.75
26 vg+ 13.75
27 fn- 15.50
32 vg+ 8.25

Manhunter
(Simonson)
1 nm 3.00

Men of War
1 fn+ 2.50
¢. spine roll, signature on cvr

Metal Men
2 vg 17.50
3 fn+ 28.00
4 vg 15.00
(warped paper)
4 fn 17.50
5 fn- 23.00
9 fn 15.00
11 vfn- 13 50
12 fn 10.50
18 g- 3.00
20 vg 7.00
23 vg- 5.50
38 vg- 3.50
45 fn 2.50
Simonson art begins
50 nm- 2.25
51 nm 2.50
52 vfn+ 2.25
53 nm- 2.25
54 nm- 2.75
Green Lantern appearance
55 vfn+ 2.75
Green Lantern appearance
56 nm- 2.25

My Greatest Adventure
3 fn- 81.00
4 vg+ 66.00
5 vg- 39.00
¢ copy, spine roll, small signature on cvr
6 vfn+ 155.00
signature on page 1, 1st Science Fiction #
7 fn+ 82.00
tape repair on inside front cover
8 fn 68.00
very slight clr retouch
10 fn- 68.00
11 vg+ 46.50
12 fn 62.50
13 vg- 38.00
14 fn 62.50
16 fn *Kirby art* 75.00 18
fn- 68.00
Kirby cover & interior
19 fn- 54.00
20 vfn 100.00
2" tear in back cover
22 fn- 45.00
23 vg+ 37.50
24 fn+ 55.00
26 fn- 36.00
27 vfn 66.00
29 fn- 36.00
30 fn- 36.00
31 fn+ 35.00
32 vfn- 49.00
33 fn+ 35.00
34 vg+ 23.50
35 vg- 19.00
loose centrefold
36 vg- 19.50
37 fn- 29.50
38 fn 32.00
39 vg- 19.50
41 fn 18.00
small piece out of back cover
42 vg 14.00
43 vg- 12.50
44 fn+ 23.50
45 fn+ 23.50
46 vg+ 15.50
47 fn- 19.00
48 vfn+ 38.75
49 fn- 19.50
50 vfn 35.50
51 vfn- 29.00
52 g- 5.50
54 fn+ 21.00
55 fn 19.00
56 vg- 11.25
57 fn- 15.50
spine roll
58 vg+ 13.75
Toth art
59 fn 19.00
60 fn 19.00
Toth art
61 fn+ 21.50
Toth art
62 fn+ 12.50
63 fn- 10.00
64 vg+ 6.50
65 fn- 10.00
66 fn 11.00
67 vfn- 15.00
1/2" corner gone
68 vg 5.00
water rippled, stained
69 vg+ 7.50
marked cover
70 fn 11.50
71 fn- 8.50
72 vg 6 00
73 fn+ 11.00
75 vg+ 6.00
shop stamp
76 vg 5.00
2" cover spine tear
78 fn 9.50
86 fn+ 27.50
Doom Patrol

Mystery in Space
1 fn+ 400.00
small corner cut, 1.5" spine split
2 vfn- 260.00
slight trimmed small tape, small colour retouch on cover
5 fn 126.00
small cvr corner gone
6 fn+ 170.00
7 fn- 140.00
Toth art
9 vg- 42.50
12 vfn+ 265.00
13 fn- 61.25
15 vg+ 60.00
16 vg 32.50
17 fn- 95.00
23 fn- 39.50
26 fn 85.00
1st Space Cabby (Gil Kane art)
27 fn- 77.00
29 fn+ 59.00
grade lowered by water ripple
31 fn+ 59.00
32 vg+ 38.50
33 vg+ 30.00
rolled spine
34 vg 35.50
35 fn 56.00
36 vg+ 39.00
37 vg+ 32.00
39 fn- 50.00
40 vg+ 39.00
41 fn- 47.00
44 vg+ 38.50
47 vg- 32.00
48 fn 52.00
50 vg 35.00
52 vg- 31.00
73 fn+ 25.00
75 fn+ 49.50
Justice League crossover
82 vg+ 10.00
84 vg- 4.50
clear taped spine
87 vfn 75.00
Hawkman series begins
88 vg+ 22.00
90 fn- 30.00
slight wrinkling

Our Army At War
82 fn- 14.00
84 fn+ 50.00
slight cover color retouch. 2nd Sgt Rock by Joe Kubert
85 fn 14.00
water rippling & part cover colouring lifted
87 fn- 41.50
88 vg+ 24.00
89 fn 47.00
90 vg- 32.00
91 vg- 49 50
marked cover. All-Rock Kubert issue
94 vg+ 22.00
96 fn+ 33.00
97 vfn- 45.00
98 vg 27 00
marked cover
99 fn+ 33 00
100 fn 25.00
light cvr color retouch
101 vfn 35.00
9d stamp

Phantom Stranger
14 fn+ 3.50
20 fn+ 2.00
23 fn 5.00
¢, 1st Kaluta Frankenstein
28 fn+ (¢) 3.50

Rip Hunter Time Master
1 apparent vfn- 155.00
1/2" bottom spine split
6 fn+ 33.00
Toth art
9 fn- 20.00
13 vg- 5.00
15 vg+ 13.75
16 vg 10.00
18 vfn 28.00
20 vfn 28.00
21 fn 10.75
marked cover
23 fn 12.00
26 fn- 9.50
marked cover
27 vfn- 16.25
28 vfn- 16.25

Sea Devils
2 fn+ 36.00
3 fn+ 23.50
4 fn+ 20.00
marked cover
5 fn+ 24.00
8 fn+ 15.50
30 vg+ 8.00

Secret Origins Annual (1961)
1 vg+ 85.00

Showcase
4 apparent vfn 4,275.00
1st Silver Age Flash, slight – professionally done – cover restoration. Only noticeable when held to a strong light
8 vg 1,000.00
2nd Flash tryout
9 vg 595.00
1st Lois Lane
11 g+ 110.00
3rd Challengers of Unknown
13 fn+ 735.00
3rd Flash
14 vg 500.00
4th Flash
21 vg+ 50.00
2nd Rip Hunter, small piece of front cover replaced
22 fn- 810.00
1st Green Lantern
23 vg+ 220.00
2nd Green Lantern
24 vg 200.00
3rd Green Lantern
26 fn- 54.00
4th Rip Hunter
27 vg 100.00
1st Sea Devils
28 fn 85.00
small part cover surface damage, 2nd Sea Devils
29 fn+ 99.00
3rd Sea Devils
32 vg+ 39.50
Aquaman
34 vg 200.00
1st Silver Age Atom
35 vg 115.00
2nd S/Age Atom; slight cvr fade
36 vg 90.00
3rd Silver Age Atom
38 vfn 170.00
2nd Metal Men
40 vg 55.00
4th Metal Men
41 vg- 18.00
Tommy Tomorrow
42 vg+ 20.00
slight wrinkling
45 vg+ 33.00
Sgt Rock; origin retold
46 vg 12.50
Tommy Tomorrow
47 fn 18.75
Tommy Tomorrow
48 fn- 9.50
Cave Carson
49 vg 7.00
Cave Carson
51 fn 10.50
I-Spy, Danger Trail reprint
55 vg+ 27.50
Doctor Fate-Hourman
56 vg- 9.00
Doctor Fate-Hourman
57 vg 22.50
1st solo Enemy Ace
60 vg 26.50
1st Silver Age Spectre
61 fn+ 27.50
2nd Silver Age Spectre
66 vg- 2.25
1st B'wana Beast
73 fn 24.00
1st Creeper (Ditko)

Star Spangled War Stories
18 vg+ 20.00
slight water damage bottom cvr

Strange Adventures
6 fn 155.00
8 vg+ 94.00
1" & 1/2" spine tears
11 vfn- 190.00
taped spine
22 fn- 63.00
1" & 1/2" spine tears
23 fn- 63.00
34 fn- 70.00
52 fn+ 52.75
94 fn- 22.75
117 vg 80.00
1st appearance/origin Atomic Knights; classic gorilla cover
135 fn 11.00
Atomic Knights
150 fn+ 10.75
Atomic Knights
157 fn 7.00
160 fn+ 11.00
last Atomic Knights
212 vfn- 15.00
214 fn+ 10.00
216 fn- 6.75
¢ copy, small cover tears

Superboy
6 vg 110.00
7 vg 100.00
surface cover 1" tear
8 vg 90.00
1st Superbaby story/ staple tape; small piece corner gone
9 fn+ 170.00
slight cover marks
11 vg- 75.00
12 vg+ 90.00
13 vg- 75.00
14 vg- 75.00
15 vfn- 210.00
16 fn+ 80.00
slight foxing
17 fn+ 90.00
18 fn- 73.00
tape on cover
20 fn+ 90.00
26 vg 36.00
28 fn 62.50
30 fn 62.50
33 fn 47.00
34 fn- 43.00
45 fn+ 47.00
68 vg 70.00
1st app/origin Bizarro
77 vg+ 17.50
78 vg 24.00
origin Mr Mxyzptlk retold
80 fn- 29.00
Superboy meets Supergirl
88 vg- 9.50
some cvr retouching
90 fn+ 22.00
91 fn+ 20.00
light subscription crease
99 fn 11.00
marked cover
100 fn- 35.00

Superman
31 fn- 180.00
35 fn- 180.00
36 fn 195.00
Solo Lois Lane story. Mxyztplk story, small writing on cover, very slight cover foxing
39 fn- 175.00
small staple tear, 1/4" spine tear
40 fn 195.00
Mr. Mxyztplk cover & story
41 fn+ 165.00
1" spine tear
43 vg- 90.00
44 vg+ 110.00
57 fn+ 137.50
3rd Lois as Superwoman
59 fn 125.00
Mr. Mxyztplk story
77 vfn- 190.00
87 fn- 95 00
88 fn+ 115.00
91 vg- 40.00
95 vg 58.00
97 fn 88.00
108 fn+ 82.50
116 fn- 52 00
118 fn+ 62.50
124 vg 33.00
126 vg+ *(brittle)* 30.00
127 vfn- 90.00
1st appearances Titano & Lori Lemaris
130 vg+ 36.00
139 vg 27.00
140 fn+ 37.50
145 g+ 10.00
taped spine
150 vg 14.00
151 vfn- 35.00
154 vfn- 35.00
157 vg- 11.00
160 fn+ 21.00
163 vg 10.00
164 fn- 13.50
165 fn 15.00
168 vg- 9.00
170 fn 15.00
J F Kennedy story
174 fn 12.50
175 vg- 7.00
176 vg+ 9.00
177 vg 8.00
179 fn+ 13.75
180 fn 12.50
181 vfn- 17.50
182 fn+ 11.50
183 fn+ 14.25
183 vg+ 8.00
80pg Giant #18
184 vfn+ 18.00
cover sticker mark
185 nm- 20.00
cover sticker mark
190 vg+ 7.50

Superman Annuals
1 vg+ 100.00
slight spine nibbling
2 fn- 52.50
small biro writing on cover
6 vg 23.00
7 vg+ 21.00
8 vfn- 45.00
9 nm- 3.00

Superman 80pg Giants
6 vg+ 20.00

Superman's Girl Friend Lois Lane
10 fn 52.50
28 fn 10.00
38 fn 9.75
40 vg 6 50
41 vg- 4.50
42 vg+ 6.00
43 fn 7.50
44 vg- 4.50
45 fn 7.50
46 fn 7.50
48 vg 5.00
59 vg- 4.00
2" cover spine tear
61 vfn 6.00

Lois Lane Annual
1 fn+ 41.00

Lois Lane 80pg Giants
3 fn 30.00
14 vg 16.00

Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen
6 fn 60.00
38 fn 18.75
41 vg- 7.00
faded cover
43 vg- 9.00
47 vg- 9 00
48 vg+ 11.00
1st Superman Emergency Squad
54 fn- 6.00
slight cover restoration
60 vfn 13.50
68 vfn- 13.50
70 fn- 3.50
73 fn 3.75
74 fn 3.75
95 g 1.00
80page Giant #25

Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen 80pg Giants
2 vg- 21.50

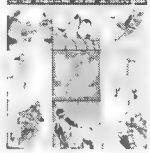
Tales of the Unexpected
1 fn- 130.00
cover off staples
2 fn+ 98.00
slight cover browning and minor cover scuff
10 fn+ 66.00
19 fn 23.50
slight cvr subscription crease
27 fn+ 33.00
33 vfn+ 50.00
39 nm- 55.00
40 fn- 160.00
41 fn+ 80.00
2" tape spine
43 vg+ 125.00
45 vg- 27.00
46 g 10.00
49 vg- 20.00
51 fn- 27.00
52 fn- 27.00
53 fn 30.00
55 vfn- 41.00
56 fn- 27.00
57 fn+ 33.00
58 vfn+ 49.50
59 vg 20.00
60 vfn- 41.50
62 fn+ 20.00
brittle cover corner 1/4" gone
63 vg+ 16.50
64 vg- 13.50
66 fn 22.50
67 vfn- 30.00
72 vg 7.50
73 vfn- 15.50
75 vfn- 15.50
76 vg 6.75
book shop stamp
78 vg 7.50
79 fn+ 12.50
80 vg+ 8.25
82 vg 7.50

Tarzan Family
64 vfn 3.75
¢ copy, giant sized issue

Teen Titans
(first series)
3 vfn- 15.00

Wanted: The World's Most Dangerous Villains
3 vfn 6.50

World's Finest
94 vg- 63.00
origin of Superman and Batman team
116 fn 16.00
tear across part cover
118 fn 18.00
121 fn- 13.50
127 vg 6.00
158 vg 4 00
cover off bottom staple



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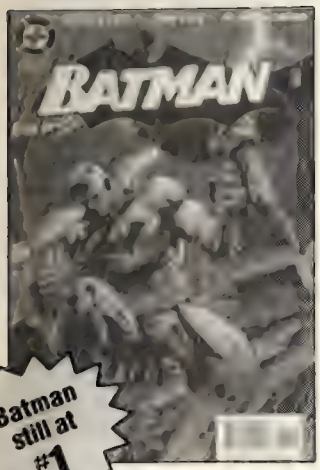
Comics Economics

The Top 100 US comicbook sales for July 2003



Batman still at #1

Rank	Prior	Title, Issue, Price & Estimated Orders	Publisher
1	(1)	**Batman** #617 $2.25 (146,601)	DC Comics
2	(N)	**Spectacular Spider-Man** #1 $2.25 (118,805)	Marvel
3	(2)	**Ultimate X-Men** #35 $2.25 (109,687)	Marvel
4	(3)	**Ultimates** #11 $2.25 (103,192)	Marvel
5	(3)	**Ultimate Spider-Man** #43 $2.25 (101,316)	Marvel
6	(5)	**New X-Men** #143 $2.25 (99,850)	Marvel
7	(N)	**GI Joe/Transformers** #1 $2.95 (98,091)	Image
8	(9)	**Amazing Spider-Man** #55 $2.25 (95,467)	Marvel
9	(4)	**Amazing Spider-Man** #54 $2.25 (95,173)	Marvel
10	(7)	**Uncanny X-Men** #428 $2.25 (93,546)	Marvel

Spectacular Spider-Man in at #2

11	(6)	**Uncanny X-Men** #427 $2.25 (92,095)	Marvel
12	(4)	**Wolverine** #3 $2.25 (90,717)	Marvel
13	(2)	**Spectacular Spider-Man** #2 $2.25 (90,350)	Marvel
14	(N)	**Teen Titans** #1 $2.50 (75,206)	DC Comics
15	(12)	**X-Treme X-Men** #28 $2.99 (65,765)	Marvel
16	(8)	**Incredible Hulk** #57 $2.25 (64,959)	Marvel
17	(9)	**Transformers: Generation One Vol 2** #4 $2.95 (64,886)	DreamWave
18	(8)	**Incredible Hulk** #58 $2.25 (62,804)	Marvel
19	(N)	**Silver Surfer** #1 $2.25 (60,282)	Marvel
20	(14)	**Daredevil** #49 $2.99 (60,155)	Marvel Knights
■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 60,000			
21	(15)	**JLA** #83 $2.25 (59,154)	DC Comics
22	(7)	**GI Joe/Transformers** #2 $2.95 (57,292)	Image
23	(11)	**Spider-Man & Wolverine** #2 $2.99 (57,116)	Marvel
24	(29)	**Fantastic Four** #501 (#72) $2.25 (56,002)	Marvel
25	(13)	**Born** #2 $3.50 (54,624)	Marvel Knights
26	(N)	**Emma Frost** #1 $2.50 (54,330)	Marvel
27	(N)	**Trouble** #1 $2.99 (53,949)	Marvel Epic
28	(10)	**Venom** #3 $2.25 (53,040)	Marvel
■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 50,000			
29	(17)	**Fantastic Four** #500 (#71) $3.50 (49,800)	Marvel
30	(N)	**Superman: Birthright** #1 $2.95 (48,789)	DC Comics
31	(24)	**JSA** #50 $3.95 (47,924)	DC Comics
32	(22)	**Captain America** #15 $2.99 (45,520)	Marvel Knights
33	(21)	**Green Arrow** #28 $2.50 (45,270)	DC Comics
34	(23)	**New Mutants** #3 $2.50 (43,614)	Marvel
35	(N)	**Thor: Vikings** #1 $3.50 (43,057)	Marvel MAX
36	(20)	**Outsiders** #2 $2.50 (42,954)	DC Comics
37	(N)	**Formerly Known as Justice League** #1 $2.50 (41,591)	DC Comics
38	(49)	**Flash** #200 $3.50 (41,078)	DC Comics
39	(29)	**Exiles** #29 $2.99 (40,696)	Marvel
40	(32)	**Spawn** #126 $2.50 (40,227)	Image/TMP
■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 40,000			
41	(25)	**GI Joe** #19 $2.95 (39,538)	Image
42	(33)	**Mystique** #4 $2.99 (39,480)	Marvel
43	(28)	**Punisher** #29 $2.99 (38,849)	Marvel Knights
44	(35)	**Detective Comics** #784 $2.75 (38,571)	DC Comics
45	(27)	**Batman/Superman/Wonder Woman: Trinity** #2 $6.95 (38,131)	DC
46	(32)	**JSA: All Stars** #3 $2.50 (37,105)	DC Comics
47	(52)	**X-Men Unlimited** #50 $2.50 (36,606)	Marvel
48	(39)	**Green Lantern** #167 $2.25 (36,254)	DC Comics
49	(34)	**Wolverine: Snikt** #3 $2.99 (35,741)	Marvel
50	(26)	**Kingpin** #2 $2.50 (35,712)	Marvel
51	(45)	**Superman** #195 $2.25 (35,302)	DC Comics
52	(41)	**X-Men Unlimited** #49 $2.50 (35,243)	Marvel
53	(28)	**Transformers: Armada** #13 $2.95 (34,964)	DreamWave
54	(17)	**Fantastic Four** #500 (#71) $4.99 (33,836)	Marvel
55	(37)	**The Authority Volume 2** #3 $2.95 (33,777)	DC/WildStorm
56	(46)	**Thor** #66 $2.99 (33,557)	Marvel
57	(43)	**Truth: Red, White & Black** #7 $3.50 (33,161)	Marvel
58	(51)	**Iron Man** #70 $2.99 (32,708)	Marvel
59	(53)	**Action Comics** #805 $2.25 (31,959)	DC Comics
60	(36)	**Hulk: Nightmerica** #2 $2.99 (31,636)	Marvel
61	(59)	**Batman: Gotham Knights** #43 $2.75 (31,387)	DC Comics
■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 30,000			
62	(55)	**Batgirl: Year One** #8 $2.95 (29,995)	DC Comics
63	(57)	**Nightwing** #83 $2.25 (29,745)	DC Comics
64	(54)	**Aquaman** #8 $2.50 (29,628)	DC Comics
65	(61)	**X-Statix** #11 $2.99 (29,599)	Marvel
66	(52)	**X-Men: Phoenix** #2 $2.99 (29,408)	Marvel
67	(58)	**Hawkman** #17 $2.50 (29,276)	DC Comics
68	(56)	**Batgirl** #42 $2.50 (29,144)	DC Comics
69	(60)	**Adventures of Superman** #618 $2.25 (29,086)	DC Comics
70	(71)	**Magdalena Volume 2** #1 $2.99 (29,012)	Image/Top Cow
71	(55)	**GI Joe: Frontline** #8 $2.95 (28,939)	Image
72	(71)	**GI Joe: Frontline** #9 $2.95 (28,191)	Image
73	(66)	**Alias** #24 $2.99 (28,103)	Marvel MAX
74	(72)	**Weapon X** #10 $2.99 (28,015)	Marvel
75	(62)	**Namor** #4 $2.25 (28,001)	Marvel
76	(72)	**Birds of Prey** #57 $2.50 (27,898)	DC Comics
77	(63)	**Captain Marvel** #12 $2.99 (27,810)	Marvel
78	(74)	**Weapon X** #11 $2.99 (27,590)	Marvel
79	(64)	**Arkham Asylum: Living Hell** #3 $2.50 (27,561)	DC Comics
80	(65)	**Paradise X** #12 $2.99 (27,312)	Marvel
81	(74)	**Superman/Batman Generations III** #7 $2.95 (26,975)	DC Comics
82	(72)	**GI Joe: Frontline** #10 $2.95 (26,843)	Image
83	(78)	**Y: The Last Man** #13 $2.95 (26,755)	DC/Vertigo
84	(70)	**JLA: Scary Monsters** #5 $2.50 (26,418)	DC Comics
85	(61)	**Inhumans** #3 $2.50 (26,403)	Marvel
86	(77)	**Batman Legends/Dark Knight** #169 $2.50 (26,286)	DC Comics
87	(76)	**Elektra** #26 $2.99 (25,655)	Marvel Knights
88	(83)	**Fables** #15 $2.50 (25,567)	DC Comics
89	(80)	**Wonder Woman** #194 $2.25 (25,347)	DC Comics
90	(N)	**Arrowsmith** #1 $2.95 (24,937)	DC Comics
91	(84)	**Battle of the Planets** #11 $2.99 (24,805)	Image
92	(89)	**Ghost in the Shell 2: Man/Machine Interface** #5 $3.50 (24,438)	Dark Horse
93	(N)	**Dawn: Three Tiers** #1 $2.95 (24,350)	Image
94	(81)	**Human Torch** #4 $2.50 (24,160)	Marvel
95	(68)	**Lobo Unbound** #2 $2.95 (24,072)	DC Comics
96	(N)	**Fallen Angel** #1 $2.50 (23,720)	DC Comics
97	(99)	**Masters of the Universe Volume 2** #5 $2.95 (23,500)	Image
98	(111)	**Transformers More than Meets t/Eye** #4 $5.25 (23,368)	DreamWave
99	(87)	**Spider-Girl** #62 $2.99 (23,104)	Marvel
100	(88)	**Catwoman** #21 $2.50 (23,090)	DC Comics

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Q&A

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Baffle us with comics questions, or save us with answers!

Amazing Spidey

Stephen Cranch via e-mail: stephencranch@yahoo.com

I'M SURE this one has popped up before, but can anyone clarify why some issues of **The Amazing Spider-Man** (around the 180 to 210 mark) have two different covers – one with a price in a square box and one with a price in a diamond shape? What is the significance?

A nice easy one to kick off with. The diamond shape was to designate a direct market (non-returnable) copy, so it wouldn't end up returned with the regular newsstand (square box) copies.

FF: first Marvel 500?

Steve Overton via e-mail: steveoverton@aol.com

APOLOGIES if I'm a bit behind the times here, but why is Marvel plugging **Fantastic Four** #500 as its first? I've just found a copy of **Journey into Mystery** dated November 1996, issue number 503! Is Marvel having a 'Crisis'?

A cynic would reply it's Marvel's first #500 worth promoting as such!

British Overstreet

Bob Trueman
Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands

IS THERE a British version of the US Overstreet Guide? If yes, where would I be able to get one from?

We're hoping that Duncan McAlpine, who produced the UK Price Guide from 1989 to 1998, will write a Pitfalls *column for a future issue, to explain what went wrong.*

Jerry Paris info

Stuart Thomas via e-mail: wandrinfool@tiscali.co.uk

I'M trying to find out any information on writer/artist Jerry Paris. I used to love his work on *Bug Hunters* and *Marshall Law* and computer magazine **C+VG** in the Eighties, and I remember he did some early **Star Wars** UK covers and other Marvel UK titles (including the very first issue of the UK **Transformers**) but I don't know what he's been up to since.

Can you help?

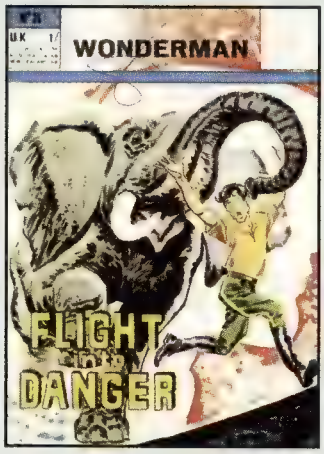
Jerry (who took his last name nom-de-plume from the old TV detective series starring James Earl Jones) was one of those almost-luckies of the 1980s.

One of the Marvel UK crowd, he was a good pal of Steve Dillon and almost stepped into his shoes on several occasions. One of the Studio System team, in Dez's post-Marvel pre-Warrior days, we haven't seen him since 1982! You still out there, Jerry?

Radar: "The Telepathic Man from Space"

Simon Carter via e-mail: simoncarteruk@aol.com

I'VE JUST bought a job lot of old comics and magazines. Included are several copies of **Radar** 4. Do you know who illustrated it?



FOR HE HAD RECEIVED A NEW DISTRESS CALL...
ONLY RADAR COULD SAVE IRENE...
THE TELEPATHIC MAN FROM OUTER SPACE SWEPT FROM ONE BREATHTAKING ADVENTURE TO ANOTHER

No, but it's bugged us too. However, considering the strip kept reappearing in different pocket library guises (see the the 1967 Wonderman *#8 cover left), despite it being printed in Italy, it could well have been a Lee Moncho production. Lee was one of those loveable rogues of European comics. An editorial packager and print farmer, he'd get artists to draw up comics, like his war, horror, adventure and romance libraries, then he'd sell them as complete printed packages throughout the world. Again and again and again.*

As well as his backbone of 1960s libraries, he was also responsible for colour, repro and print farming ***Miracleman*** *#1 and Quality's* ***2000 AD*** *US reprints. In fact, when the QCL team bailed out after a year with such notables as Scott Dunbier, Peter Hogan and Dave Elliott all getting their intro into the industry through its resizing and edits, Lee took over the line, dispensing with resizing in favour of stretching pages to fit the US format. "Gee, why's the moon an oval, dad?". Commuting between south London and Barcelona, most of Lee's artists were Spanish unknowns (unlike the Toutain-Warren stars) and our guess is that* ***Radar*** *was produced, cheaply, by one of them. But we welcome input.*

Backing boards

Andy Rushton
6 Parkhill, Blackheath
West Midlands

WHICH side of a backing board is the best to place a comic against? Shiny or dull? Or does it make any difference which side you use?

Answers on a postcard please.

Answer Updates

Readers provide answers for previous issues' questions

Billy the Cat/Man In Black Q&A #163

The Q&A Brains Trust's Lew Stringer comes in late with...

JUST to correct a little misinformation in #163: Phil Hampton's memory is a little unreliable regarding DC Thomson's comics of the 1980s. As Dez pointed out, **Buddy** could not have merged into **Valiant** as they were from two different publishers, plus **Valiant** had merged into **Battle** a decade earlier!

The *Billy the Cat* strips that **Buddy** ran were new stories, not reprints, and the comic also ran updated versions of other classic Thomson characters such as The Iron Fish and Limp Along Leslie.

And as regards the strip *The Man in Black*, this appeared in **Spike** (not **Buddy**) and after a few episodes the mystery of the black-clad super athlete was gradually revealed. He was none other than William Wilson, an old Thomson character who had appeared in their boys adventure comics in the past (in **Wizard** in the 1940s, and in **Hornet** in the '60s). Wilson lived on the moors and his endurance and longevity was due to him eating special berries and herbs... or something.

Black Knight Q&A #163

Brains Trust fresher Rob Kirby adds...

FURTHER to Tony Ingram's query about the classic UK *Black Knight* strip, I thought it worth mentioning that the series actually skipped several issues of **Hulk Comic** (and latterly **The Incredible Hulk Weekly**), so Tony doesn't need to look for a complete set of 63 issues after all (unless he wants one, of course!) to read the saga.

For the record the *Black Knight* opus appeared in issues 1, 3-30, 42 -55 and 57-63. The long gap between #31 and 41 was filled by an edited/'cut-up' reprint of the US *Black Knight* strip from **Marvel Super-heroes** 17, which was followed by a longer run of heavily edited/'cut-up' *Captain Britain* highlights, before the series resumed in issue 42.

Surely an **Essentials** candidate if Marvel US can ever be persuaded of its merits.

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Panel Beaters

Comics International's monthly sampler of the best of the small press and indie comics scene

WHILE THE UK supply of post-adolescent comics has dwindled to a mere handful, by contrast the indie and small press market has mushroomed. So, in addition to **CI**'s classified announcements and small press reviews section, *Panel Beaters* gives readers a chance to sample some of the best of what's currently out there.

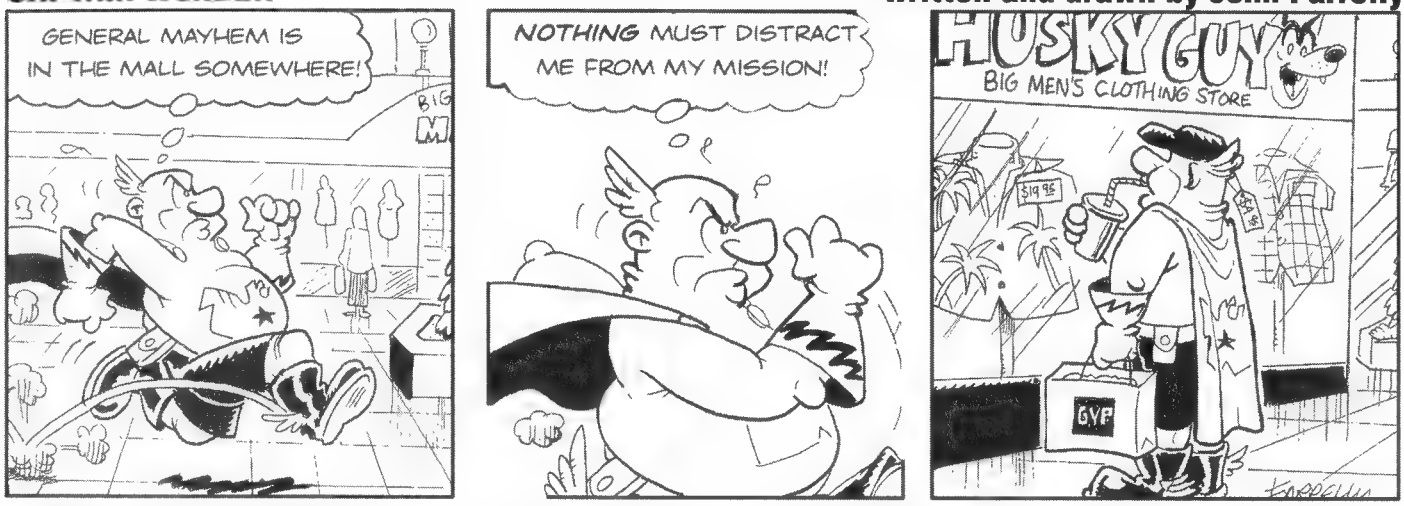
Each of the following strips is meant to be a standalone tale or gag that has been produced as an exclusive taster for **CI** readers, and is accompanied with full details about the comic, where you can find more of the below published writer and artist's work.

Would-be contributors to this section for future issues should note the proportions (printed size: 188mm wide, 120mm deep for double bank; 60mm deep for single bank) before submitting black and white copies of their work. You can email *editorial@comicsinternational.com* for the Panel Beaters style sheet, or write to us at **Panel Beaters, Comics International, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ.**

Compiled by Leonie O'Moore, Andy Smith & Dez Skinn

CAPTAIN WONDER

written and drawn by John Farrelly



CAPTAIN WONDER #1 is currently available for £1.95 (inc p&p) by emailing an order to *captainwondercartoons@hotmail.com*

NO REBEL

written and drawn by Trevor Smith

NO REBEL appears in **ALLFALLDOWN**, currently available at £2.00 from Smallzone. Write to them at: 10 Cleveland Avenue, High Ircall, Telford, Shropshire TF6 6AH

CAPTAIN BULLDOG

by Jason Cobley and Neill Cameron

BULLDOG
Attack of the Clones!
EH?
THIS IS LIKE BAD YANK TELLY THERE'S ALWAYS THE AMNESIA EPISODE, AND THERE'S ALWAYS THE EVIL TWIN EPISODE
I GUESS YOU'RE THE RESULT OF CARACAL'S
THAT'S RIGHT I MIGHT LOOK LIKE YOU BUT MY BRAIN HAS BEEN GENETICALLY ACCELERATED SO I THINK NOTHING LIKE YOU
I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE LOOK! BEER!
WHERE?
Writer: Jason Cobley Artist: Neill Cameron

The Place: Blighty, on an alternative Earth where mammals and vegetables have evolved alongside humans
The Hero: Captain Winston Bulldog of the Aerial Defence Force.
The Situation: Blighty is at war. Since the invading forces of the evil Vegenation were expunged from Blighty, the nation has descended into fascism. The country's corrupt leader, Tony Earnest, has herded hundreds of vege-people into camps and removed their civil rights. In protest, a breakaway ADF faction led by Bulldog has launched a rebellion against the Empire Party government. Desperate to defeat Bulldog once and for all, Earnest sends a clone against our hero...

BULLDOG ADVENTURE MAGAZINE is currently available at £2.50. Write to Jason Cobley, 94 Elm Road Rd, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2TB *(www.bam.paulholden.com)*

TALISMAN

by Colin J. Dinnie and John Paul Howard

CAN'T YOU BITE IT OR SOMETHING?
RULE 1, DON'T LET THE WEREWOLF BITE YOU.
RULE 2, DON'T BITE THE WEREWOLF - EVEN IF YOU ARE A VAMPIRE.
MAYBE I COULD MAGIC HIM BACK TO HUMAN.
AARROOOWL!
REGRESSION!
YOU MADE A WERE-PUPPY!
YOU CAN NOT KEEP HIM!

TALISMAN appears quarterly in **RAPID FIRE**, 1 & 2 currently available for £2.40 ea (inc p&p). Write to: Underfire Comics, 57a Langney Rd, Eastbourne, BN21 3QD (www.underfire-comics.com)

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OPENS MIDDAY

Letters

Comics International, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ

Immature abuse

Mike Breen
Flat D, 29 Walpole Road
Bournemouth BH1 4HB

IS IT really necessary for readers who disagree with each other to descend to the level of childish namecalling?

Re the *Daredevil* debate: "If I call anyone who disagrees with me an ignorant, brain-dead cretin or a pedantic, picky twat, I'll sound really big and clever and no-one will dare argue with me": Andy Jones and Richard Domar, come on down!

Do you think we could leave the immature abuse to the politicians and other grown-ups?

That said, I'd tend to agree with Andy Jones about the 'Daredevil kills rapist' scene. Having put up with all the hype from the director, writers and even the leading man about them being major fans of the source material and determined to remain true to it, the almost nonchalant way that DD dispatched the rapist was woefully out of character.

No amount of waffle about 'properties' being 'developed' for film or TV justifies such a basic distortion of the character's personality. Just because movie-makers have been pulling the same shit for years with books and other source material doesn't make it right.

Odd that no-one seems bothered about the similar distortion of Elektra's character. What happened to the criminal, amoral assassin-for-hire with a (to say the least) unhealthy relationship with her father? Maybe the hotness of Jennifer Garner and her twirling sais blinded everyone to the way the character had been 'developed'?

Personally, the only change that really bothered me was to DD's ususally elegant cowl, which, without the covering on his neck, made him look like a kid with his school cap pulled down over his ears. But at least it's not as bad as the stained-glass window leaded effect for the *Spider-Man* movie costume.

Other topics: in **CI** #158's *Reviews*, Alex Thompson on **Ghost in the Shell** refers to the author's "self-defecating" humour. SELF-DEFECATING? Self-deprecating, surely. Or is this a genuine instance of someone laughing so hard they shat themselves? Spell-checkers are no substitute for proper proof-reading.

Reviews, I'm afraid, continues to suck (sorry). Series which are at best tedious, poorly written, poorly drawn and ignorant of continuity (while somehow still trying to trade on past successes) are awarded unconvincingly high marks, seemingly only to justify the reviewers' choice in buying them in the first place. I refuse to believe that the half-dozen or more reviewers have so little experience of good comics that, for example, Bruce Jones's cynical TV-*Hulk* rip-off or the terminally unfunny, rambling and badly drawn **Captain Marvel**, were considered contemporary masterpieces.

I understand the practical and financial limitations on providing your reviewers with review material, but **CI**'s current situation means that all objectivity goes out the window. You must be aware that no 'professional' reviews magazine would countenance a situation where reviewers only wrote about stuff they already liked enough to buy.

It's also no surprise that Paul Gravett's column seems destined for the Least Popular Feature award. Apart from the fact that *Novel Graphics* is a twee and irritating title, one to two full pages is a disproportionate amount of space to devote to one person's opinion of one comic (I agree with Dave Sim's opinion regarding the misuse of the term 'graphic novel'). Mr Gravett appears unable to sell his subject matter – which is in any case of minority interest to most readers – and he has even made work that I've previously enjoyed seem dull and uninteresting. Perhaps a single page that covers several 'graphic novels' might generate more interest?

Sorry to dwell on the negative, but as I'm still buying **CI** after four or five years you must be doing something right.

Touching on as many salient points as possible: I'm old-school, I don't trust spell-checkers, and I actively discourage such. I did ponder the defecating comment, but thought it too good to change. Alex hasn't corrected us so it must have been a gag.

Reviews: We've almost 30 disperate voices in our team, out of 50+ editorial contributors to last month's issue! That we run multiple reviews of popular/controversial/launch issues appears unique in the anals (or is that annals?) of the reviewing world. Hopefully, it leads to more balanced criticism. But then, what "professional" reviews magazine would review and give news space to companies for over 14 years when they weren't even considered worthy of comp copies or advertising? We may make up around 10% of US comics sales, but the UK certainly doesn't see 10% of the ad budgets let alone review copies.

Oh, and don't blame Paul Gravett for the pun title, that was me! ...Dez

On the other hand...

Mike Cruden
18 Backbower Lane, Hyde
Cheshire SK14 5NS

JUST wanted to say how much I enjoy Paul Gravett's *Novel Graphics* column, just as much for the quality of his writing as for the subject matter he covers.

Website

Aaron Probets via e-mail:
aaronprobets@whatabeauty.fsnet.co.uk

WHAT'S wrong with the **Comics International** website? Although I buy **CI** every month, I decided to use the review section of your site to check out **The O Men** back issues (having just got into the comic) and to my horror discovered that the reviews only go up to July 2001. That's over two years old!

I realise you want people to buy the mag rather than go on the site but you could at least update it every few months.

Also, any chance of getting a few longer reviews looking at a comic over a number of issues or spotlighting lesser known comics (such as **The O Men**)?

In the current wave of new editorial features, we do have the more expansive First Impressions *Reviews adjunct lined up. It will go into greater depth than usual for* ***CI****, but from a new reader perspective to make it more interesting than the usual page skipping long-winded nit-picking minutiae other magazines prefer.*

The website? A new look is under construction as we've lost track of both our old webmaster and the passcodes!

Thanks!

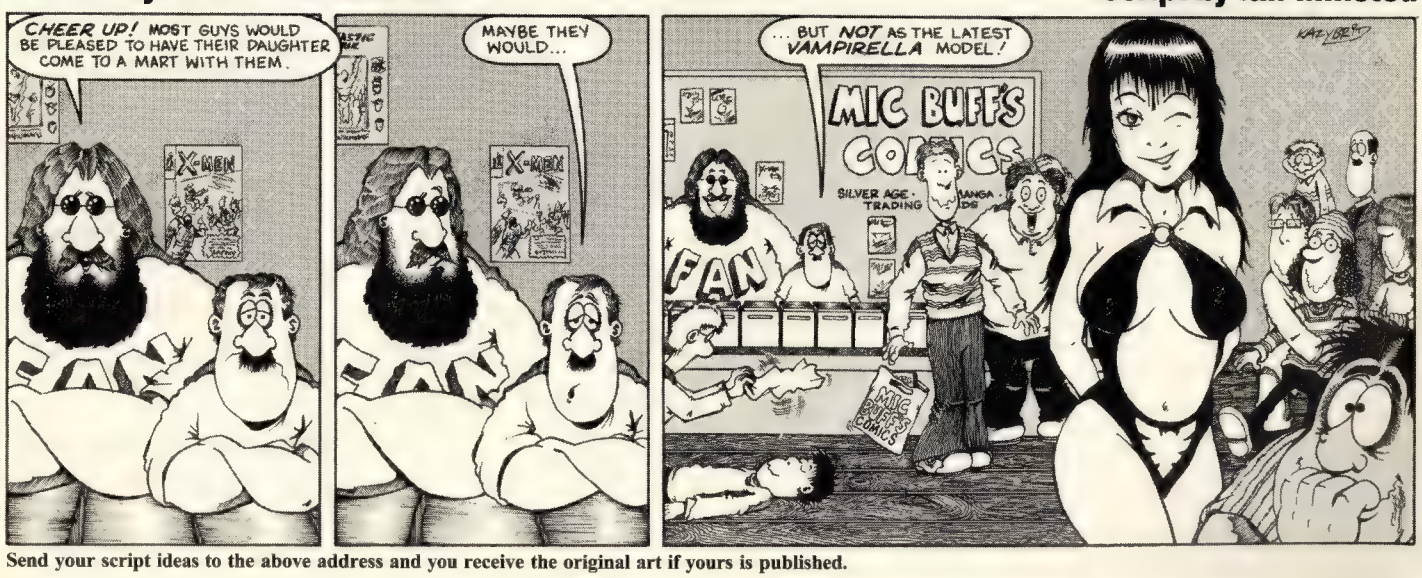
David Wickenden via e-mail:
davidwickenden@hotmail.com

I'VE JUST received **CI** #160 and thought I'd say thanks for printing my letter. I've scored some serious brownie points from 'er indoors (so serious in fact that she has agreed to buy me **Batman** #234 for my birthday!).

It now looks like I'm just two **CI** issues behind the rest of the crowd. Is there any chance you could list two issues next month in **Diamond Previews**? I would really like to enter your monthly competitions, but if it can't be done it can't be done. I suppose

Mike Kazybrid's COMIC CUTS

Script by Ian Millsted


CHEER UP! MOST GUYS WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE THEIR DAUGHTER COME TO A MART WITH THEM.
MAYBE THEY WOULD...
...BUT NOT AS THE LATEST VAMPIRELLA MODEL!
MIC BUFF'S COMICS
SILVER AGE
TRADING
FAN
X-MEN

Send your script ideas to the above address and you receive the original art if yours is published.

Please note: All scripts are submitted on the understanding they become the copyright property of Kazybrid, Skinn and Comics International.

it's the price I pay for living in one of the colonies...

Wizardworld, CI-style

CapAmerica2@aol.com

IN RESPONSE to Dez Skinn's reply to my Bristol con question (**CI** #162) I should have been more specific by suggesting more of a co-organised con with the current organiser, therefore giving more publicity to **Comics International** (like the Wizard-Con approach). It would present a more professional image to the con as opposed to the (no offense) fanboy image it currently exudes.

Don't all line up to hang me now.

Personally, I had my share of organising comic cons way back in '71 and '81. Doing the programme booklets was fun, but the rest was a generally thankless task. Kudos to current keeper of the flame Kev F Sutherland who seems to be enjoying the job, and we always help out whenever he asks us.

But as far as co-organising, Kev's never asked and, with various publishing projects looming, we've an overwhelming list of priorities as it is.

Worthy additions

Chris Askham
9 Balmoral Grove, Colwick
Nottingham NG4 2GB

JUST finished reading **CI** #162, and I'm pleased to say that I'm enjoying the current crop of articles. The change to this slick paper stock is very nice, making the whole mag in general look very shiny and new, and giving a nice clarity to the print on the page. All the new columns are most welcome; I particularly enjoying Stephen Holland's comments *(Talking Shop)* and *Panel Beaters*. Good to see the small press getting a bit of publicity, and I hope to see this stick around for a while.

Incidentally, how did *Terrible Sunrise* manage to bag a whole page strip for itself? I'm not complaining, mind, just wondered what kind of figure to keep in mind for future bribes/donations...

Interesting to see that *Comment* has now become a forum for complaining about our jobs ("Ten Things I Hate About You..."). Oh dear, dear, dear.

It seems to me that this guy's problem isn't that he works in a comics shop, but that he works in RETAIL. You see, I also work in retail (stationary, not comics) and I could just as well make the same points about my own job. Or any job in retail.

To address a few of his whinings: Firstly, point two – "Put it back where you found it". Let's face it, how often do we as customers put things back in the right place on the shelf? Whether it's a CD, a book, a DVD, or clothes... This is not something that only affects comics shops, it happens in any shop. Besides which, if you're working in retail then it's your job to keep things tidy; it's not up to the customer. Do some work, why don't you?

Point three, "This is not a library". Oh dear, we can't have those pesky customers 'cluttering' up the shop now, can we? If only all retailers shared this unique vision...

Point five, "Wait your turn". Unfortunately, most comics shops I've visited have one member of staff on the shop floor. Two if you're lucky. But if there is more than one, then they're probably enjoying a private conversation about last night's *Buffy* DVD marathon. You might need to use a crowbar if you actually want them to leave the counter...

The rest of Comic Shop Employee's comments all come across as pointless whinging. If you don't like it, don't work in retail. Just don't moan about it 'cos it's the last thing I want to read while I'm enjoying my **CI**. This guy seems to think that all his job entails is to sit behind a counter cluttered with *Doctor Who* keyrings and packs of collectable card games, listening to the latest Marilyn Manson bollocks.

Although it is worth mentioning that if you read his *Comment* in the voice of Comic Shop Guy from *The Simpsons*, it sounds bloody hilarious...

Panel Beaters, yay!

Darren Worrow via e-mail:
darren@toonedelic.fsnet.co.uk

I MUST say page 47 (**CI** #163) is excellent! The Frank Quitely cover ain't too bad neither!

Seriously, though, many thanks for *Panel Beaters*. I think I speak for all small pressers when I commend **Comics International** for putting up with us!

Gush blush, gush blush

Nabiel Kanan via e-mail:
nabiel@new-flame.co.uk

JUST bought the new issue of CI and wanted to say a big thanks for the Brit blokes article *(News*, **CI** #163). It's probably the best exposure my work has ever had in the mainstream comics press and is very much appreciated. Thanks to all involved.

Nice to see Brett Ewins and my old fellow Deadliner Ilya making comebacks, too. Sort of feels like 1990 again.

A valuable service

Tony Ingram
3 Lower Harlings, Shotley Gate
Ipswich, Suffolk IP9 1QE

A QUICK note (somewhat delayed by a busy couple of weeks at work) to thank you for the somewhat unexpected plug for **Comics Retrospective** in #162.

I firmly believe that fanzines – even self-indulgent one-man efforts like my piece of amateur trash – have a lot to contribute to fandom in a way that websites just don't. After all, not everyone has Internet access (or wants it), and comics are a paper and ink medium, so surely paper and ink is the best form in which to celebrate them.

CI provides a valuable service in giving exposure to 'zines and small press comics and I hope it'll continue to do so *(Panel Beaters* is a great idea by the way!).

It's heartening to know long-time industry pros like you actually read this stuff, despite undoubtedly having far better things to do.

Ultimates and stuff

Peter Sidebotham
13a Wallworths Bank, Congleton
Cheshire CW12 3DP

FIRSTLY, I've just heard that **Tripwire** has ceased publishing, so another great prospect bites the dust. I don't imagine that **Comics International** is likely to go the same way, as I assume it has a very wide readership by now.

I would, however, welcome a regular interview column. How about it? Or even features on old British comics **Valiant**, **Lion**, etc?

I've recently come through a phase of avoiding superhero comics, with the exception of both **Ultimate X-Men** and the **Ultimate Spider-Man**, which I think add a refreshing take on an old idea. The characters seem to have individual personalities, not the stereotyped old versions. I love the new rendition of Quicksilver, a character I thought was badly used by the old Marvel timeline.

Don't get me wrong, I've grown up with the original Marvel universe, but frankly it's become stale and boring. At least with the Ultimate line I'm finally meeting some old friends for the first time.

CrossGen seems to be heading in the direction that both Marvel and DC should follow: new concepts, not new superhero titles.

The reason we've managed 14 years of regular reporting is probably because we didn't go the ***Tripwire*** *route. Publisher/editor Joel Meadows had promised us a* Pitfalls *column on the nightmare that is federated trade distribution. But on the day his manuscript should have arrived, he called to say a deal in the making with a US publisher prevented him from commenting.*

Maybe it was tempting fate to call the new column Pitfalls*, as we encountered one on its second outing!*

Interviews: we actually have two in the bag, with Alan Moore and Grant Morrison, now all we need is a rush of extra ads to cover the cost of adding pages to include them. As for old British comics coverage, I try to be pretty strict with sticking to our remit as a news magazine. Much as you and I would love to read such, we must be careful not to let ***CI*** *cater to a niche within a niche market or we could "do a* ***Tripwire****"!*

Lone Ranger a-peel

James Garrity
6 Ashton Square,
Dunstable, Beds LU6 3SN

I HAVE been reading comics since 1960, collecting, then selling, and so on. In the good old days, when no shops existed, I used to buy comics from a guy called Alan Austin. He published a fanzine and produced lists every so often.

Anyhow, over the years, an item was continually offered and I wondered if anyone ever bought it. The item in question was "A sketch of the Lone Ranger on onion skin". A few readers may recall it.

I still buy and read comics, but I do not collect as such; I have a few nice items, and I recently started selling on eBay. Now since the demise of **CI**'s *Movers & Shakers* I wondered if it would be a good idea to report on eBay results – some of which are amazing.

Anyway, been reading **CI** since that free issue at a convention long ago (#5!). Good read. Keep on.

The Lone Ranger on onion skin? Now we are getting seriously obscure. As for Movers & Shakers*: It's been squeezed out more because of time than space. So, in our latest attempt to boost our team, we're on the lookout for a few new contributors.*

If you feel you can provide any of the following material, please email me at dez@comicsinterntaional.com *and we'll get things rolling again:*
(1) Bargains and top prices paif on eBay.
(2) Absurd media coverage of comics
(3) Potential hot titles
(4) Creator tomfoolery

John Cooper on ITN

Brent Cleever via e-mail:
BrentCleever21@aol.com

THE ITN News at 6.30 on 4th September ran a feature on teen romances, introduced by mock-frames from a romance comic in the unmistakable style of veteran comics artist John Cooper.

Just in case it wasn't unmistakable, he managed to get his signature into the bottom of one frame!

Another satisfied reader

Craig Lemon via e-mail:
CraigLemon@aol.com

I'VE just renewed my **CI** subscription. The new columns are excellent. I'm very pleased with the look nowadays; you must be proud of the mag!

DCT's own goal

Mark Badham-Moore via e-mail:
Mark.Badham-Moore@
marshallaerospace.com

DID you know that DC Thomson will soon be cancelling its football comics (so I've heard)? Funny really, especially in light of **Striker**'s launch.

What's happened to the paper in the mag by the way? Is this stuff slightly cheaper? I seem to recall that it's not so easy to recycle though, due to the extra processing.

Thanks a bunch, Mark. We upgrade to more expensive slicker paper stock and you ask if it's cheaper than bog-standard newsprint. In a word, "no".

As for recycling, you mean you don't bag and board your copies?

Directory

An at-a-glance reference guide to everything that counts in comics

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Comics creators

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Quality/Warrior ..... www.comicsinternational.com
Sirius Entertainment . www.sirius.choiceoneonline.com
Todd McFarlane Productions .... www.spawn.com
Top Cow Comics ..... www.topcow.com
TwoMorrows ..... www.twomorrows.com
2000 AD www.2000ADonline.com
Viz (USA) ..... www.viz.com
Viz (UK) ..... www.viz.co.uk
WildStorm Comics ..... www.wildstorm.com

Manga and anime

AD Vision ..... www.advfilms.com
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Festivals and fairs

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Angouleme BD (France) ..... www.bdangouleme.com
Comic-Con International (San Diego, USA) ..... www.comic-con.org
Lucca Comics (Italy) ..... www.comune.lucca.it
Megacon (Florida, USA) .. www.megaconvention.com

MEMORABILIA (Scotland & England)
BIRMINGHAM NEC, GLASGOW SECC & LONDON THE UK'S BIGGEST FANTASY FAIRS ..... www.memorabilia.co.uk

Raptus International Comics Festival (Norway) ..... www.raptus.no
Scottish Comic, Card & Collectables Fair ..... e-mail:marts@redhotcomics.demon.co.uk
Wizard World (Chicago, USA) www.wizarduniverse.com

New and back issue dealers

Ace Comics ..... www.acecomics.net
Avalon Comics ..... www.avaloncomics.co.uk
Black Dog Comics ..... www.blackdog-comics.com

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FOR THOSE COMICS THAT YOU CAN'T FIND ANYWHERE. CHEAP TOO! ..... www.obscurecomics.com

Online Comic Shop ..... www.onlinecomicshop.com
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◆ *Major companies requiring bold and boxed entries should send £60 + £10.50 VAT per 6-issue series, US $80 (£10/$16 per issue) and may add three lines of descriptive copy. Cheques and international money orders should be made payable to Comics International and sent to:*
Internet Listings, Comics International, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ
Alternatively, payment can be made by credit card, fax: 0(11 44) 1273 566 333 or e-mail details to: Listings@comicsinternational.com

Retail Index: UK

Key to the abbreviations used:

imp = air imported new issues
back = back issues stocked
gn = graphic novels
tpbk = trade paperbacks
STO = standing order service (new comics reserved)
s-p = small press and fanzines
ind = independent comics
u/g = underground comix
prl = peripherals/supplies
RPG = role playing games
CCG = customisable card games
merch = trading cards, videos, t-shirts, posters, etc

Sorry, no websites, this is a shop guide

When telephoning from outside the UK, drop the first 0 and replace with: 01144 (USA); 0044 (mainland Europe & Eire); 001144 (Australasia).

Central London

Avalon Comics, 143 Lavender Hill, Battersea, London SW11 5QJ. Mon-Thurs 10-5.45; Fri 10-6.30; Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 11-3.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 0207924 3609

Book & Comic Exchange, 14 Pembridge Road, Notting Hill Gate, London W11. Mon-Sun 10-8. Nothing legal refused! (back, ind, u/g) 020 7229 8420

Comic Showcase 63 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0NE. Sun-Wed 10-7; Thurs-Fri 10-8; Sat 9.30-8 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, cartoon books, original art) 020 7434 4349

Forbidden Planet Superstore, 71-75 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DG. Mon-Wed/Sat 10-6; Thurs-Fri 10-7 (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV, sci-fi, fantasy, books, video, games, mags, kits, toys) 020 7420 3666

Gosh!, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH (opposite British Museum). Mon-Sun 10-6; (Thurs-Fri to 7) (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, foreign, largest range newspaper strip compilations in UK) 020 7636 1011

Mega-City Comics, 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ. Mon-Sun 10-6; (Thurs-Fri to 7) (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV, fantasy/horror, body art, subculture) 020 7485 9320

Mighty World of Comicana, 237 Shaftsbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EH. Mon-Wed 10.30-6.30; Thurs-Sat 10-7; Sun 10-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, film/TV/fantasy) 020 7836 5630

Orbital, 9 Old Compton Street, London W1. Mon-Sat 10.30-7; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, manga, toys, Star Wars) 020 7434 9363

Outer London

A Place in Space, 101 Church Street, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RN. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, prl, merch, sci-fi, original art) 020 8686 2400

Ashcan Ltd, 3 Eagle Star House, 299-301 High Street, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1LG. Tues-Wed/Fri 12-5, Thurs 9-6; Sat 10-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch) 020 8770 3815

Atomic Comics, 1112 High Road, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 4AH. Mon-Tues 10.30-5.30; Wed 1-5.30; Thurs-Fri 10.30-6; Sat 10-6 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV, art books, Games Workshop, toys, kits) 020 8597 8547

NEW **Black Angel Comics**, Merton Abbey Mills, Watermill Way, Merton Abbey, London SW19 5WG. Sat-Sun 10-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, merch) 07771 502618

Calamity Comics, 160 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2HR. Mon-Wed 10-6, (Thurs-Fri to 7); Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, fantasy film/TV, books, videos) 020 8427 3831

Epic Heroes, 21/23 Station Road, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 7JE. Mon-Sat 10-6. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, RPG, CCG, merch, toys, posters, Transformers)

Forbidden Planet, 175 North End, Croydon CR0 1TP. Mon-Fri 10-6; (Thurs to 7); Sat 9.30-6. (back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, u/g, CCG, merch) 020 8688 7190

Into the Void, 262 Streatham High Road, Streatham SW16 1HS. Mon-Sat 9.30-7; Sun 11-3. (imp, back, STO, merch, toys) 020 8677 7037

Krypton Komics, 252 High Road, Tottenham, London N15 4AJ (next to Tesco) Mon-Fri 10.30-6; Sat 10-6 Nearest Tube: Seven Sisters Road. (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind) 020 8801 5378 fax: 8376 3174

They Walk Among Us, 26 Red Lion Street, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1RW. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (Thurs to 6); Sun 11-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, fantasy/sci-fi/horror, subculture) tel/fax: 020 8948 8476

30th Century Comics, 18 Lower Richmond Road, London SW15 1JP. Mon-Wed 10.30-6; Thurs-Fri 10.30-7; Sat 10.30-6; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, Gold/Silver/Bronze Age specialists, British comics/annuals, books) 020 8788 2052

South East

Ace Comics, 63/64 High Street, Colchester, Essex. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch) 01206 561912

The American Comic Shop, 1 Church Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4BS (off High Street). Mon-Fri 10-5.30 (Tues until 5); Sat 9-5.30. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, action figures) 01634 817410

Calamity Comics 2, 90 Queens Road, The Broadway, Watford WD1 2LA. Mon-Tues 10-5.30; Thurs/Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, fantasy film/TV, books, videos) 01923 249293

Cartoon Shop, 19 East Square, Basildon, Essex SS14 1HT. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, RPG, merch) 01268 534194

Central City Comics, 4 Eagle Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1JB. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, foreign) 01473 233017

Chaos City, 20 Heritage Close, (off High Street), St Albans, Herts AL3 4EB. Mon-Thurs 10-5.30; Fri 10-7.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) 01727 838719

Comic Showcase, 19-20 St Clements Street, Oxford OX4 1AB. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 01865 723680

Comics Unlimited, Unit 11, The Arcade, Letchworth, Herts. Mon-Sat 9-5.30 (closed Wed) (imp, back, STO, RPG, CCG, merch, videos, Games W/shop) 01462 480018

Comix-shop.co.uk, 7a High Street, Maidenhead SL6 1JN. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, tpbk, gn, merch, CCG, toys) 01628 777998

David's Comic Shop, 5 Sydney Street, Brighton, Sussex BN1 4EN. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.45; Sun 11-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g) 01273 691012

Daydream Nation Trading Cards at Hive, 6 Kensington Gardens, Brighton BN1 4AL. Mon-Sat 10-6 (CCGs, cards, sports, Ultra-Pro) 01273 687 877

Forbidden Planet, 60 Burleigh Street, Cambridge CB1 1DJ. Mon-Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, CCG, merch, videos, sci-fi/fantasy books, film/TV magazines) 01223 301666

Forbidden Planet, 44 The Priory Centre, Dartford, Kent DA1 2HS. Mon-Wed 10.30-5.30; Thurs-Sat 10-5.30 (back, gn, ind, PRG, CCG, merch) 01322 224837

Incognito Comic Shop, 1-2 The Friars, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2AS. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 11-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, film/TV) tel/fax: 01227 785898

Into the Void, 324-325 Chartwell North, Top Floor, Victoria Plaza, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 5SR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch) 01702 613021

Off World: The Sci-Fi Store, 142 Market Halls, Arndale Centre, Luton LU1 2TP. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, STO, s-p, CCG, merch, Star Trek/Wars, sci-fi collectables) 01582 736256

Pat's Comics & Collectables, 7 Suttons Lane, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6RD. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch, trading cards) 01708 459444

Phoenix Fantasy, 9 Market Street, Margate, Kent CT9 1EU. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch) 01843 224768

Slough Computers, 50 Village Shopping Centre, Slough, Berks SL1 1HP. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, STO, ind, cards, second hand computer games) 01753 521594

Speeding Bullet Comics, 43 Hermitage Road, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1BY. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 (Wed 10-5); Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, s-p, merch, STO, CCG, action figures, original artwork, life-size Spidey mannequin for hire) 01462 451117

Time Trek, 46 High Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1EG. Mon-Wed/Fri 9.30-5.30; Thurs 10-8; Sat 10-5.30; Sun 10-4 (imp, back, ind, gn, merch, STO, CCG, prl, sf TV/film) 020 8313 0677

Whatever Comics, 2 Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, kits) 01227 453226

Whatever Comics, 5 Middle Row, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1TF. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, model kits) 01622 681041

Midlands

Abstract Sprocket, 29 St Benedicts Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 4PF. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 01603 624410

Another World, 42/43 Main Centre (opposite Wilkinsons) Derby. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30, Sat 9-5.30, Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, merch, rock/film/TV memorabilia, computer games) 01332 206606

Another World, 23 Silver St, Leicester LE1 5EU. Mon-Fri 10-5.30, Sat 9-5.30, Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, foreign, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 01162 515266

Another World, 11 Market Street, Nottingham. Mon-Fri 9-5.30, Sat 9.30-5.30, Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, foreign, rock memorabilia, alchemy metalware) 0115 9484122

Another World, 52 Stafford Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1JB. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30, Sat 9-5.30, Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, rock memorabilia, alchemy metalware) 01782 279294 fax: 202381 Mail Order: 271750

Another World, 23 Victoria Street, Wolverhampton WV1 3NP. Mon-Fri 10-5.30, Sat 9-5.30, Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, rock memorabilia, alchemy metalware) 01902 717440

Forbidden Planet, 31 Cross Cheaping, Coventry CV1 1HF. Mon-Sat 9.30-6 (Thurs to 7) (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV) 02476 229672

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 129 Middle Walk, Broadmarsh Centre, Nottingham NG1 7LN. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV) 0115 958 4706

Forbidden Planet Superstore, 38 Priory Queensway, Birmingham B4 7LA. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30; (Thurs-Fri to 6) (imp, back, gn, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, books, games, mags, kits, toys, videos) 0121 236 3026

Ground Zero, 9 Toothill Lane, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 1NJ. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, prl, CCG, merch, toys) 01623 622017

Nostalgia & Comics (FPI), 14-16 Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham. Mon-Thurs 9.15-5.45, Fri-Sat 9.15-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 0121 643 0143

Page 45, 9 Market Street, Nottingham NG1 6HY. Mon-Sat 9-6. (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, manga) 0115 950 8045

Phoenix Comix, 29 Abington Square, Northampton NN1 4AE. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, RPG, CCG, action figures) 01604 602311

Travelling Man, c/o Gamestation, 1st Floor, 6 East Street, Derby DE1. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, prl, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures, fantasy books, film/TV) 0115 950 9231

Travelling Man, c/o Gamestation, 1st Floor, 16 Angel Row, Nottingham NG1 6HL. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures, miniatures) 0115 950 9231

North West

All-American, 102 Newport Street, Bolton BL3 6AB. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, gn, STO, merch, Star Wars, WWF, action figures, S/Age, videos, records, CDs) 01204 366553

Alpha Omega Comics, 33-35 Library Street, Wigan, Lancs WN1 1NN. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, STO, merch, videos) 07796 854644

Forbidden Planet, 92 Bold Street, Liverpool L1 4HY. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (Thurs to 7) (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV, sci-fi/horror) 0151 707 1491

Forbidden Planet Megastore (FPI), 65 Oldham Street, Piccadilly, Manchester M1 1JR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30, Sun 12-5 (2 floors; imp, back, STO, RPG, CCG, merch, books, toys, film and TV tie-ins, manga) 0161 839 4777

Imagination Station, 41 Bank Street, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 8HJ. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch)

Millennium Comics, 4 Church Road, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5NT. Mon-Tues 10-5; Wed closed; Thurs-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, RPG, merch, action figures, toys) 01606 49255

Moonwalk Collectables, Unit 15, Climax Works, Durham Street (off Station Road), North Redditch SK5 6YZ. Mon-Sat 10-6 (back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, merch, Star Wars and Dr Who specialist, TV/film, British titles) 0161 431 6050

Thunderbooks, 332 Lytham Road, Blackpool FY4 1DW. Mon, Tues, Thurs-Sat (Sun June-Oct inc) 10-5.30; Wed 1-3.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, media collectors' items) 01253 348321 fax: 407813

Thunderbooks II, 116 Friargate, Preston, PR1 9EE. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, RPG, merch) 01772 204287

Time Tunnel, 13 Earle Street, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 2BS. Mon and Wed-Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, merch, film/TV memorabilia, action figures, videos, model kits) 01270 215496

NEW **Twin Suns**, 127 Blackburn Rd, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 0AA. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, RPG, CCG, merch) 01254 386665

Worlds Apart (FPI), 58-60 Lime Street (city centre), Liverpool. Mon-Sat 10-6 (Fri 10-7) (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, film) 0151 707 0839

North East

Books N' Comics, Unit 15, Forbes Building, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 4AW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, merch, fantasy and film magazines, Doctor Who/Star Trek) 01642 249143

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 30 Eastgate, The Headrow, Leeds LS2 7JL. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, LF film books, film/TV mags, posters, toys, kits, trading cards, stills, Star Trek/Doctor Who) 0113 242 6325

Forbidden Planet, 59 Grainger Street, Newcastle NE1 5JE. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV mags, fantasy/sci-fi books, videos) 0191 261 9173

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 41 Dundas Street, Middlesbrough TS1 1HR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (Thurs until 7) (imp, gn, s-p, STO, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch, video, action figures, film/TV, manga) 01642 248889

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 12 Matilda, off the Moor, Sheffield. Mon-Fri 10-5; Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, original art, model kits, sci-fi/fantasy books, horror magazines, newspaper strip books) 0114 276 9475

The Last Picture Show, 38-39 The Lanes, The Oasis, Meadowhall Centre, Sheffield S9 1EP. Mon-Thurs 10-8; Fri 10-9; Sat 9-7, Sun 11-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV and rock memorabilia) 0114 256 9604 fax: 255 3399

Millennium Comics, Stall 141, Warrington Indoor Market. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, RPG, merch, action figures, toys) 01925 575657

Off-World Comics, 200 Park View, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 3QP.

Mon-Tues/Thurs 10-5.30 (closed Wed); Fri 10-6; Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, CCG, merch) 0191 251 2288

Sheffield Space Centre, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield. Mon-Sat 10-5 (Wed closed) (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, merch, Star Trek) 0114 275 8905

Travelling Man, Unit 8/9, The Corn Exchange, Call Lane, Leeds LS1 7BR. Mon-Thurs 10-5.30, Fri-Sat 9-5.30, Sun 11-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures) 0113 242 7227

Travelling Man, 54 Goodramgate, York YO1 2LF. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures) 01904 628787

West Country

American Dream Comics, 72 Walcot Street, Bath BA1 5BD. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, original art, hobby kits, CDs) 01225 424881

Area 51, 143 Gloucester Road, Bristol. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, original art) 0117 924 4655

Automattic Comics, Unit 2, 17 Pickwick Road, Corsham SN13 9BQ. Mon-Tues 12-5, (Wed closed), Thurs-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 01249 701647

Collector's Choice, 45 Southgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1TX. Mon-Sat 9-5 (S/Age, British comics/annuals, vintage mags, toys, memorabilia) 01452 410232

Forbidden Planet, 30 Penn Street, Bristol BS1 3AS. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 (Thurs to 7), Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV mags, subculture) 0117 929 8692

Forbidden Planet, 43-45 East Street, Southampton SO14 3HN. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 (Thurs to 6), Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV) 023 80230991 fax: 230996

Ian's Books & Comics, 195a Albert Road, Southsea, Portsmouth PO4 0JP (next to Tesco). Mon-Tues/Thurs-Fri 10.30-5.15 (Wed closed) Sat 10-5.15 (imp, back, tpbk, STO, s-p, prl, toys) 023 92422731

Into the Void, 11 Rodbourne Road, Swindon SN2 2AG. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, CCG, merch)01793 434363

Kaboom, 65 High Street, Totnes, Devon TQ10 9PU. (new, back, action figures, t-shirts, board games, RPG, import computer games, mail order) 01803 863049

Kathies Comics, Unit BG29, Broadmead Gallery, The Galleries Shopping Centre, Bristol BS1 3XB. Mon-Wed/Fri-Sat 9-5.30; Thurs 9-6; Sun 11-5.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 0117 922 1170

Kathies Comics, 20 Market Avenue, Plymouth, PL1 1PH. Mon-Fri 9.30- 5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 01752 257800

Paradox Comics, 17 High Street, Poole, Dorset BH15 1AB. Mon-Fri 10.30-5; Sat 10-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, ind, merch, videos) 01202 661346

Purple Haze, 38 Eastlake Walk, Drakes Circus Shopping Centre, Plymouth, Devon PL1 1BX. Mon-Fri 10-5.30, Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, film, TV, sci-fi/horror/genre books, videos, Star Trek/Wars, cassettes/CDs) 01752 254136

Wonderworld, 540 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth BH1 4BE. Mon-Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, CCG, merch, film/TV/media, beanie babies) 01202 394918 or 393613

Wales

Cardiff Fantasy Centre, 1st Floor, Jacobs Market, West Canal Wharf, Cardiff. Sat 9.30-4.30 (imp, back, STO; established over 20 years) 029 206 58184 (eves)

Comix Shoppe, 13 Shoppers Walk, Swansea SA1 3AY. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, anime, Games Workshop) 01792 642097

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 5 Duke Street, Cardiff. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, sci-fi/fantasy/horror books, Star Trek/Wars) 029 202 28885

Negative Zone, Provision Market Gallery, High Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 1DD. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind; established for 11 years) 01633 222159

Scotland

Asylum Books & Games, 29 Adelphi, Aberdeen AB11 5B2. Mon-Sat 10-6 (Mon and Thurs to 8); Sun 12-5 (imp, back, STO, new/second hand RPG, CCG, books, original art) 01224 574637

Black Hole Comic Shop, Unit 3, 5 Victoria Road, Dundee DD1 1ER. Mon-Thurs 10-5; Fri-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, second hand records, CDs, videos) 01382 221037

City Centre Comics, 51 Parnie Street, Glasgow G1 5LU. Tues-Sat 10-5 (back) 0141 552 2208

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 12 Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB10 1JX. Mon-Fri 10-6 (Thurs until 7); Sat 9.30-5.30l; Sun 12-5 (imp, gn, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, CCG, merch) 01224 622131

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 40-41 South Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1LL. Mon-Wed 10-5.30, Thurs 10-6.30; Fri-Sat 10-5.30 Sun 12-5. (imp, STO, s-p, ind, merch, foreign) 0131 558 8226

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 168 Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 2LW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30, Sun 12-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 0141 331 1215

Justice Comics, Unit 36, The Arcade, Stirling, Fife FK8 1AX. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch) 01786 447687

Kapow!, 28 Allison Street, Govanhill, Glasgow G42 8NN (off Pollokshaws Road). Tues-Sat 11-6 (buy and sell back, gn, ind, mags, videos, DVDs, new and second-hand books, merch) 0141 4241600

Plan 9, 9 Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB25 1NE. Mon-Sat 10-5 (Thurs to 6), Sun 1-4. (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, WWF, merch, sci-fi) tel/fax: 01224 624467

Red Hot Comics, Block D Unit 7, Glenwood Business Park, Glenwood Place, Glasgow G45 9UH. Sat 11.30-6; Sun 12-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 0141 630 0049

Northern Ireland

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 47 Winetavern Street, Belfast BT1 1JQ Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch) 028 90438744

Retail Index: USA

When telephoning from outside the USA, include the bracketed 00. Out-of-town US calls begin with the 1 prefix only. The following is a fraction of the estimated 3,000+ US comics stores.

Alabama

Optic Nerve, 1930 12th Avenue South, Birmingham AL 35205 (film, newsstand, ind) (00)1 205 933 2787

Alaska

Bosco's in Spenard, 2606 Spenard Road, Anchorage 99503. Mon-Sat 11-8, Sun 12-6 (new, back, CCG, RPG, cards, anime, merch) (00) 1 907 274 4112

Bosco's Diamond Centre, 800 East Diamond Blvd, Anchorage 99577. Mon-Fri 10-9; Sat 10-6; Sun 12-5 (new, back, CCG, RPG, cards, anime, games, Star Wars/Trek) t/f: (00) 1 907 344 3963

Bosco's in Eagle River, 11432 Business Blvd, Eagle River. Mon-Sat 12-8, Sun 12-5 (new, back, CCG, RPG, cards, merch) t/f: (00) 1 907 696 5166

Arizona

Lost Dutchman, 747 West Camelback Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85013. Mon-Sun 10-7. (new, back) t/f: (00)1 619 278 0371

California

Comickaze, 5525 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego, CA 62117-2342. Mon-Fri 11-7; Sat 11-6; Sun 12-6 (new, back, CCG, merch) (00)1 858 278 0371

Comix Experience, 305 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. Mon-Sat 11-7; Sun 12-5 (new, back) (00)1 415 863 9258 (f: 9299)

Flying Colors Comics, 2980 Treat Blvd, Concord, CA 94518. Mon-Sat 11-7 (Fri until 8); Sun 12-6 (new, back, ind, cards, merch) (00)1 510 825 5410

Lee's Comics, Inc., 1020-F N Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94043. Mon-Sun 10-9 (new, back: 1930s to date, anime, manga, s-p, adult, merch) (00)1 650 965 1800

Lee's Comics, Inc., 2222 South El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94403. Mon-Sun 10-9, (new, back: 1930s to date, anime, manga, adult, s-p, merch) (00)1 650 571 1489

Meltdown Comics & Collectibles, 7522 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90046 (toys, comics, books) (00)1 323 851 7223

Stand-Up Comics, 10020 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Mon-Fri 11 7; Sat-Sun 11-6 (new, back, cards, anime, CCG, merch) t/f: (00)1 510 525 3344

Third Planet, 3822 Sepulveda Blvd, Torrance, CA 90505. Sun-Thurs 11-8; Fri + Sat 11-9 (new, ind, back, CCG, RPG, GW, sci-fi/fantasy, anime, merch) (00)1 310 791 6227

Hawaii

Gecko Books & Comics, 3613 Waialae Ave, Honolulu, 96816. Mon-Sun 9-9 (new, back, cards, toys, merch) (00)1 808 732 1292 (f: 2188)

Illinois

Comic Kingdom, 5941 W Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60634. (new, back) (00)1 773 545 2231

Louisiana

Comic Cosmos, 343 W Esplanade Avenue, Kenner, LA 70065. Mon-Thur 11.30-7, Fri-Sat 11-7.30, Sun 12-5 (new, back, cards, CCG, toys, anime) (00)1 504 286 0039

Crescent City Comics & Cards, 6111 Elysian Fields, New Orleans, LA 70122. Mon-Sat 11-7, Sun 12-6 (new, back, cards, CCG, RPG, anime) (00)1 504 286 0039

More Fun Comics, 8200 Oak St, New Orleans, LA 70118. Tues-Sat 11-7, Sun-Mon 12-6 (new, back, cards, CCG, merch, toys, CDs) (00)1 504 865 1800

Maine

Casablanca Comics, 151 Middle Street, Portland, ME 04101. Mon-Sat 10-9, Sun 12-7 (new, back, cards, CCG, RPG, merch, art) (00)1 207 780 1676

Casablanca Comics, 778 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, ME 04062. Mon-Fri 11-7, Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5 (new, back, CCG, RPG, merch)(00)1 207 892 0056

Massachusetts

Comicopia, 464 Commonwealth Ave, Boston, Massachusetts 02215. Mon-Sun 11-7 (Wed 10-8) (new, merch, CCG, manga, tpbk) (00)1 617 266 4266

Minnesota

Uncle Sven's Comic Shoppe, 1838 St Clair Avenue, Saint Paul MN 55105. Mon-Fri 3-6, Sat 11-4 (new, back, tpbk, gn, videos, action figures, CCG, RPG; est 19 years) (00)1 651 699 3409

New York State

Earthworld Comics, 327 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206. Mon-Wed 11-6; Thur-Fri 11-7, Sat 11-6, Sun 12-5 (new, back, ind, manga/anime, cards, merch) (00)1 518 465 5495

Forbidden Planet (**FPI** associate), 840 Broadway (at 13th St, NY 10003. Mon-Sat 10-10; Sun 12-10. (new, ind, back, RPG, merch, fantasy) (00)1 212 473 1576

Jim Hanley's Universe Ltd, 4 West 33rd Street (opposite Empire State Building), NY 10001. Mon-Sat 9am-11pm; Sun 10-9. (Everything to do with comics) (00)1 212 268 7088

Jim Hanley's Universe Ltd, 325 New Dorp Lane, Staten Island, NY 10306. Mon-Sun; 12-9. (Everything to do with comics) (00)1 718 351 6299

Midtown Comics, 200 West 40th Street, NY 10018 (00)1 212 302-8192

Ohio

The Laughing Ogre, 4258 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43214. Mon-Sat 10-9; Sun 12-5 (new, back, cards, merch) (00)1 614 267 6473

Oklahoma

Time Warp, 588 SE Washington Street, Bartlesville, OK 74006 (new, back, cards, games, toys, CDs, sci-fi/fantasy) (00)1 918 335 3373

Pennsylvania

Comic Castle, 17 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA 17703 Mon-Sun 10-9 (new, back) (00)1 717 322 8763

Golden Eagle, Berkshire Square, 1159 Berkshire Blvd, Wyoming, PA 19610 (new, back, games, CCG, cards, Star Wars/Trek) (00)1 610 376 8255

Golden Eagle, Fairgrounds Square Mall, Reading, PA 19605 (new, back, games, CCG, cards, Star Wars/Trek) (00)1 610 921 3160

Tennessee

Collector's World, 1511 E Main Street, Murfreesboro TN 37130. Open 7 days a week (new, back, CCG, merch, cards, CDs) (00)1 615 895 1120

Collector's World, Hickory Plaza South Central, 5751 Nolensville Road, Nashville, TN 37211. Open all week (new, back, CCG, merch, cards, CDs) (00)1 615 895 1120

Collector's World, 10820 Kingston Park #10, Knoxville, TN 37922 Open 7 days a week (new, back, CCG, merch, cards, CDs) (00)1 423 675 6830

Collector's World, 4006 Granny White Park, Nashville TN 37204 (new, back, CCG, merch)(00)1 615 385 8136

Texas

Cliff's Comics, 2205 West Berry Street, Fort Worth, TX 76110. (new, back, cards, merch) (00)1 817 927 7172

Collectible Heroes, 502 West Calton Road #307, Laredo, TX 78041. Mon-Wed 2-7.30; Thurs-Sat 11.30-7.30 (new, back, cards, merch) (00)1 956 791 8428

Dragon's Lair Comics & Fantasy, 616 West 34th Street, Austin, TX 78705 (new, back, games, anime, miniatures, prl) (00)1 512 454 2399

Virginia

Thore Comics, 3514 Oaklawn Blvd, Hopewell, VA 23860. Mon-Sat 11-7, (new, back, Silver Age, sci-fi, M:TG, cards, vinyl) (00)1 804 458 9561

Trilogy Shop, 700 E Little Creek Road, Norfolk, VA 23518. Mon-Fri 11-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 12-6 (new, back, merch) (00)1 757 587 2540 (f: 5637)

Wisconsin

Arcade Comics Entertainment, PO Box 301, Germantown, WI 53022. (new, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (00)1 262 253 9003 (f: 695 8226)

Lost World of Wonders, 6713 West Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53219 (00)1 414 328 4651 (f: 328-1355)

Direct Market Retailers:

***Comics International**'s Retail Index is THE international retail reference source for collectors, creators, publishers and journalists. Through it you can reach over 40,000 dedicated readers each issue for only £6 (US $10) a month! Bookable in 6-issue blocks, retailers wishing to be included should send US $60 or £36 (UK: please add £6.30 to cover VAT @ 17.5%) plus shop information as detailed on previous page to:*

Retail Index, Comics International, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ, England

Cheques and international money orders should be made payable to Comics International. Alternatively, payment can be made by credit card, fax: 0(11 44) 1273 566 333 or e-mail: Listings@comicsinternational.com

The letters **(FPI)** after various entries indicates that the company is part of **Forbidden Planet International Ltd**

Retailers: International

Australia

Arcadia Unbound, 267 Forest Road, Hurstville, NSW 2220. Mon-Fri 10.30-7, Sat 10-4, Sun 12-3 (imp, back, manga, merch, CCG) (0061) 2 9585 1489

Books & Bounties/Comics Haven, 157a Charters Towers Road, Townsville, Queensland 4812. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, gn, merch, RPG, CCG) (0061) 7 4779 2408

Fan Attic, 1st Floor, 91 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane, Queensland 4002. Mon-Sun 9.30-5.30 (toys, Star Wars, sci-fi collectibles) (0061) 7 3221 1420

Kinda Lotsa Comics and Stuff, Shop 4, 503-511 King Street, Newtown, Sydney, NSW. Mon-Sat 10.30-7.30 (back, toys, merch)(0061) 2 9565 1054

Known Space Books, 1st Floor, 108 Gawler Place, Adelaide, SA 5000. Wed-Sat 12-6 (US/UK back) (0061) 8 8223 4304

Phantom Zone, 23 Anderson Street, Chatswood, NSW 2067. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4 (imp, back, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 9411 3709

Phantom Zone, 198 Mann Street, Gosford, NSW 2250. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4. (imp, back, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 43 25 4599

Phantom Zone, 207 George Street, Liverpool, NSW. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4. (imp, back, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 9601 2622

Phantom Zone, 285 Hunter Street, Newcastle, NSW. 2300. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4. (imp, back, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 4929 5717

Phantom Zone, 101a Argyle Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150 Mon-Fri 9-6; Sat-Sun 9-4 (imp, back, books, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 9891 1848

Phantom Zone, 268 Crown Street, Wollongong, NSW. 2500. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4 (imp, back, gn, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 4228 7393

Austria

Comic Treff, Getreidemarkt 2-4, 1010 Vienna. Mon-Fri 10-7, Sat 10-1 (imp, back, gn, CCG) (0043) 11 586 76 27

Belgium

Forbidden Zone, 25 Rue de Tamines, 1060 Brussels. (3 floors; imp, back, merch, US/French, STO, toys) (0032 2) 534 63 67 (fax 538 24 52)

Canada

Connection MD, 1539 Van Horne Avenue, Montreal, Quebec H2V 1L4. Mon-Sat 11-6 (new, merch, back, CCG) (00)1 514 948 2627

Dragon Lady Comics & Paper Nostalgia, 609 College Street, Toronto, Ontario M6G 1B5. (00)1 416 536 7460

Little Shop of Heroes, 160 Wallace Avenue, South Listowel, Ontario N4W 1X9 (00)1 519 291 2281

Silver Snail Comic Shop, 367 Queen Street West, Toronto M5V 2A4. Mon-Wed 10-6; Thurs-Fri 11-8; Sat 10-6; Sun 12-5 (00)1 416 593 0889

France

Album, 67 boulevard St Germain, 75005 Paris. Mon-Sat 10-8; Sun 12-7 (imp, back, gn) (0033) 53 10 00 60

Album, 6 rue Dante, 75005 Paris. Mon-Sat 10-8; Sun 12-7 (imp, back, gn) (0033) 43 54 67 09

Alpha Omega, 25 rue de la Clef, 59800 Lille. Mon 2.30-7.30, Tue-Sat 10.30-12.30/2.30-7.30 (imp, back, French, merch, trading/gaming cards, toys, RPG, Wars/Trek, B5, L5R) (0033) 320 319 375

Astro City, 22 rue Masurel, 59800 Lille. Mon 3-7.30; Tue-Sat 10-12.30, 2-7.30 (imp, manga, cards, merch, kits) (0033) 320 55 1010

Impact Comics, 64 rue Condorcet, 75009 Paris. Mon-Sat 11-7.30 (imp, back, merch, CCG)(0033) 42 80 30 10

L'Antre des Dragons, 56 rue de Loup, 33000 Bordeaux. Mon-Sat 10-1/2-7 (imp, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0033) 55 65 17378

Les Nageurs de Sable, 14 rue Courteline, 37058 Tours. Mon-Sat 11-1/2-7 (imp, back, cards, merch) (0033) 2 47 39 52 40

Pulps, 14 bld Morland, 75004 Paris. Mon-Sat 11-7 (imp, back, RPG) (0033) 1 42 72 55 25

Germany

Black Dog Comics, Rodenberg Strasse 9, 10439 Berlin. Mon-Fri 11-6.30, Sat 11-2 (imp, back, gn, t/cards) (0049) 30 4473 6486

Grober Unfug, Zossenerstrasse 32-33, 10961 Berlin. Mon-Sat 11-7 (imp, back, gn, CCG, merch) (0049) 30 6940 1490

Greece

Metropolis Comics, 94 Metropoleos St, 54622 Thessaloniki. Mon-Sat 10.30-3.30/7.30-11.30 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0030) 3 193 7775

Solaris, 6 Botasi Str, 10682, Athens. Mon-Sat 9-3.30/5-8.30 (imp, back, gn, merch) (0030) 1 384 1065

Holland

Henk Lie's Comics & Manga Store, Zeeduk 104, 1012BB Amsterdam. Mon-Sat 11-6; Sun 11-9 (imp, cards, merch, CCG) (0031) 20 421 3688

Hungary

Troll Kepregenyta'r, Terez Krt 13, Budapest 1067. Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-1(imp, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0036) 1 322 6026

Irish Republic

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 5-6 Crompton Quay, Dublin 2. Mon-Sat 10-6 (Thurs 10-7); Sun 12-5 (imp, back, ind, merch, u/g, UK, gn, STO) (0035) 3167 10688

Sub-City Comics, 2 Exchequer Street, Dublin 2. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) (0035) 3167 71902

Sub-City Comics, Unit 10, Level 1, Corbettcourt Centre, Eyre Square, Galway. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) (0035) 3915 65994

The 3rd Place, Crow Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) (0035) 3163 36965

Italy

Avalon, via Battisti 9/b, Bologna. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10.30-1/2-7.30 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0039) 051 234459

Avalon, via Pedriali 21, Forli. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10-1/2-7 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0039) 0543 33523

Avalon, via Settembrini 20, Milan. Mon 3.30-7.30, Tue-Sat 11-7.30 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0039) 022 9400410

Avalon, via Foscolo 3, Padova. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10-1/2-7. (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch)(0039) 049 658290

Avalon, via Bissolati 68, Rome. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10-1/2-7 (imp, back, gn, CCG, cards, merch)

Avalon, via Magenta 0, Torino. Mon 3.30-7, Tue-Sat 10.30-1, 2-7.30 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0039) 011 5617252

Forbidden Planet, via Pinerolo 11/15, 00182 Rome (imp, back, gn) (0039) 06 70305702

Il Marchio Giallo, via Deghi Scipioni 116, Rome. Tue-Sat 10.30-1/2-7.30 (imp, back, merch, kits) (0039) 06 361 40 60

La Borsa del Fumetto, via Lecco 16, 20124 Milano. (imp, back, European and RPG, CCG) (0039) 11 5617252

Malaysia

The Mind Shop, Starhill Centre, Jalang Bukit Bintag, Kuala Lumpur. Mon-Sat 11-10 (imp, CCG, RPG, merch) (00603) 241 8871

The Mind Shop, S 58 Bandar Utama, Petaling Jaya. Mon-Sat 11-10 (imp, CCG, RPG, merch) (00603) 719 8246

The Mind Shop, Jln SS21/39, Petaling Jaya. Mon-Sat 11-10 (imp, CCG, RPG, merch) (00603) 717 6602

New Zealand

Heroes For Sale, Level 2, 62 Queen St. Auckland. Mon-Sat 10-7 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g)(0064) 9 307 0682

Whitcoulls Corner Branch, 210 Queen Street, Private Bag 92098, Auckland. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, s-p, merch, ind, u/g) (0064) 9 356 5400 (fax: 9 356 5408)

Portugal

BdMania, Rua das Flores 67-71 R/C, 1200 Lisboa. Mon-Sat 11-7.30 (imp, back, CCG, merch) (00351) 21 346 1207

Interzona, Centro Comercial Brasilia, Loja 203, Rua Luis Veaga Lertao 98-120, 6050 Porto. Mon-Sat 11-11 (imp, back, gn, CCG, merch) (00351) 22 609 1460

Mundo Fantasma, Centro Comercial Brasilia, Rua Luis Veiga Leitao, 98/120, 1 Andar-Loja 203, 4050-399 Porto. Mon-Sat 11-11 (US imp, back, gn, CCG, merch) (00351) 22 609 1460

South Africa

Euroniag, Shop 79A, East Rand Mall, Boksburg, Johannesburg. Mon-Sun 9-10 (imp, back, gn, CCG, merch) (0027) 11 896 3773

Zed Bree's Comic Universe, Mediterr-anean Building, 24 Tenth Ave, Edenvale 1610 Gauteng. 9.30-6 (imp, merch, gn, CCG) 002711 453 4215 (fax 453 4459)

Spain

Gigamesh, RDA San Pedro 53, 08010 Barcelona. Mon-Sat 10-1.30/4.30-8 (imp, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0034) 3 246 6359

Sweden

Comics Heaven, Stora Nygatan 23, 11127 Stockholm. Mon-Sat 10-6.30 (imp, back, gn, merch)(0046) 8 202516

Switzerland

Analph Comicladen Strassburgstr, 10 PO Box 1030, 8004 Zürich. (0041) 1 2419695 fax 1 2403442

The letters **(FPI)** after entries indicate that the company is part of **Forbidden Planet International Ltd**

International Festivals

A listing of the world's major comics festivals and conventions. For further information, call the organisers on the phone, fax or e-mail numbers provided. To view updates, contact them on their websites. Organisers' estimates of their previous year's attendance is given in brackets.

October 11-12: Belgium

FACTS 2003, ICC Citadelpark, 9000 Gent. Organisers: Forbidden Zone, 25 Rue de Tamines, 1060 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: 0032 2 534 63 67 fax 0032 2 538 24 52. Website: www.facts-convention.com

October 24-26: Poland

THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF COMICS. Organisers: Lodzki Dom Kultury, Traugutta 18, 90-113 Lodz, Poland. Tel: 0042 633 98 00 ext 244 or 247. E-mail: festiwalkomiksu@pokzta.wp.pl

October 18-November 3: Portugal

BD-AMADORA '03. Organisers: Festival Internacional de Banda Desenhada da Amadora, av do Brasil 52-A, 2700-134 Amadora. Tel: 00351 21 499 8910 fax: 00351 21 496 2353. E-mail: bd.amadora@mail.telepac.pt Website: www.bdamadora.com

October 31-November 2: Italy

LUCCA COMICS. Organisers: Lucca Comics, Via della Cavallerizza 11, 55100 Lucca, Italy. Tel: 0039 583 48522 fax: 0039 583 91203.

November 1: England

COMIC FESTIVAL LONDON. Organisers: Comic Festival, PO Box 48, Clevedon, Bristol BS21 7LQ. Website: www.comicfestival.co.uk

November 29-30: England

MEMORABILIA '03, NEC, Birmingham. Organisers: Made in Heaven, 1 Star Street, Moffat, Dumfriesshire DG10 9DR. Tel: 01683 220787 fax: 01683 220798. Website: www.memorabilia.co.uk

January: France

ANGOULEME BD. Organisers: Festival International de la Bande Dessinee, 2 Place d l'Hotel de Ville, 16000 Angouleme, France. Tel: 0033 05 45 97 86 50 fax: 0033 05 45 95 99 28. E-mail: b.monchart@labd.com Website: www.labd.com Date: TBA

March 5-7: United States

MEGACON 2004, Orange County Convention Centre, Orlando, Florida. Organisers MegaCon, 4023 Tampa Road - Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677, USA. Tel: 001 813 891 1702. E-mail: info@megaconvention.com Website: www.megaconvention.com

April: England

MEMORABILIA '04, NEC, Birmingham. Organisers: Made in Heaven, 1 Star Street, Moffat, Dumfriesshire DG10 9DR. Tel: 01683 220787 fax: 01683 220798. Website: www.memorabilia.co.uk Date: TBA

May 21-23: Finland

ARCTIC COMICS FESTIVAL, KEMI. Organisers: The Arctic Comics Centre, Rautatienkatu 13 B, FIN-90100 Oulu, Finland. Tel/fax: 00358 400 514 540. E-mail: ilpo.koskela@graafinenstudio.com Website: www.kemi.fi/sarjis

June 10-13: Switzerland

FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE LA BANDE DESSIGNEE DE SIERRE. Organisers: Festival BD Sierre, CP 200, CH-3960 Sierre, Switzerland. Tel: 0041 27 455 90 43 fax: 0041 27 455 91 01. E-mail: festival@bdsierre.ch

July 22-25: United States

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL '04, San Diego, California. (2003 est: 53,000). Organisers: Comic-Con International, PO Box 128458, San Diego, CA 92112-8458. Tel: 001 619 491 2475 fax: 001 619 414 1022. Website: www.comic-con.org

August 13-15: United States

WIZARD WORLD CHICAGO CON 2004. (2003 est: 35,000) Organisers: Wizard World Chicago, 151 Wells Avenue, Congers, NY 10920-2064. Tel: 001 608 226 0200. Website: www.wizarduniverse.com

Comics Publishers

North America

Unlike Europe, North American publishers invariably favour indie status to that of being labelled small press. This results in there being hundreds of comics publishers.

While circulations vary immensly, the following are the continent's major comicbook producers with titles printing between 5,000 and 150,000 copies. Contact phone numbers are given where readily available.

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, PO Box 1674 Station C, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2G 4R2 (Cerebus)

ABSTRACT STUDIOS, PO Box 271487, Houston, TX 77277-1487 (Strangers in Paradise)

AC COMICS, PO Box 521216, Longwood, FL 32752-1216 (adventure titles, Golden Age superhero and western reprints)

ACCLAIM COMICS, 1 Acclaim Plaza, Glen Cove, NY 11542 (game tie-in adventure, Valiant superhero imprint. dormant) (00)1 516 656 5000

AiT/PLANET LAR, 2034 47th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116 (graphic novels) (00)1 415 504 7516

ALTERNATIVE COMICS, 503 North West 37th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32609-2204 (alternative and graphic novels) (00)1 352 373 6336

AMERICAN MEDIA CONSUMER ENTERTAINMENT, INC, 600 East Coast Avenue, Lantana, Florida 33464 (Cracked) (00)1 561 586 1111

ANTARCTIC PRESS, 7272 Wurzbach, Suite 204, San Antonio, Texas TX 78240 (adventure and US manga)

ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543 (humour) (00)1 914 381 5155

AVATAR PRESS, 9 Triumph Drive, Urbana, Illinois, IL 61802 (horror fantasy titles) (00)1 217 384 2211

AWESOME ENTERTAINMENT, 9744 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 402, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, CA 90212 (adventure titles; dormant)

BONGO ENTERTAINMENT, 1440 South Sepulveda Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (The Simpsons and related humour titles) (00)1 310 966 6168

CALIBER COMICS, PO Box 6191, Plymouth, MI 48170 (black and white adventure titles) (00)1 734 462 0457

CARTOON BOOKS, PO Box 16973, Columbus, OH43216 (Bone and related)

CROSSGENERATION COMICS, 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, FL 34677 (fantasy adventure) (00)1 813 891 1702

CRUSADE FINE ARTS LTD, PO Box 845, Bayport, NY 11705 (fantasy and adventure) (00)1 631 472 2866

DARK HORSE COMICS, 10956 South East Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222 (adventure titles, licensed, US and Japanese manga) (00)1 503 652 8815

DC COMICS, 1700 Broadway, NY 10019 (adventure and humour, MAD, Vertigo and Paradox Press imprints) (00)1 212 636 5400

DISNEY COMICS, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521 (humour titles) (00)1 818 507 5739

DRAWN & QUARTERLY, PO Box 48056, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2V 4SB (black and white biog)

DREAMWAVE PRODUCTIONS, 2750 14th Avenue, Suite 302, Markham, Ontario L3R 0B6, Canada

DYNAMIC FORCES, 155 Ninth Avenue, Suite E, Runnemede, NJ 08078 (variant editions and merchandise) (00)1 856 312 1040

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS, 7563 Lake City Way North East, Seattle, Washington 98115 (adventure, biographical and Eros adult) (00)1 206 524 1967

HARRIS COMICS, 1115 Broadway, 8th Floor, NY 10010 (Vampirella, fantasy and horror) (00)1 212 807 7100

HARVEY COMICS ENTERTAINMENTS, 100 Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 91401 (humour) (00)1 310 451 3377

HEAVY METAL, 100 Merrick Road, Suite 400 East, The Rockville Center, NY 11570 (adult fantasy magazines and spin-off editions) (00)1 516 594 2130

HUMANOIDS PUBLISHING, PO Box 931658, Hollywood, California CA 90093 (US-European editions) (00)1 714 2880200

IMAGE COMICS, 1440 North Harbor Boulevard, Suite 305, Fullerton, CA 92835 (adventure) (00)1 714 2880200

MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, 10th Floor, East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016 (adventure, humour and licensed) (00)1 212 696 0808

NBM PUBLICATIONS, 185 Madison Avenue, Suite 1504, NY 10016 (adult fantasy graphic novels and magazines)

ONI PRESS, 6336 South East Milwaukie Avenue, PMB 30, Portland, OR 97202 (adventure) (00)1 503 233 1377

RADIO COMIX, 11765 West Avenue, PMB 117, San Antonio, TX 78216 (anthropomorphic manga) (00)1 210 348 7195

SIRIUS ENTERTAINMENT, INC, PO Box 128, Stanhope, NJ 07874 (adult)

SLAVE LABOR GRAPHICS PUBLISHING, 848 The Almeda, San Jose, CA 95126 (black and white fantasy) (00)1 408 279 0451

TOP COW, 10390 Santa Monica Boulevard #110, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (adventure and licensed)

TOP SHELF PRODUCTIONS, PO Box 1282, Marietta, GA 30061-1282 (alternative and biographical) (00)1 770 425 0551

TWOMORROWS PUBLISHING, 1812 Park Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina, NC 27605 (comics feature magazines) (00)1 919 833 8092

VEROTIK PRESS, PO Box 64859, Los Angeles, CA 07043 (adult fantasies)

VIZ COMICS, PO Box 77010, San Francisco, CA 94107 (English translated manga)

WaRP GRAPHICS, 43 Haight Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (Elfquest and spin-offs) (00)1 914 473 9277

WILDSTORM, 7910 Ivanhoe Street, #438 La Jolla, CA 92037 (includes ABC, Cliffhanger and Homage DC subsidiary imprints)

United Kingdom

The following are major UK newsstand comics and graphic novel publishers. If calling from outside of the UK, you should drop the first 0 and replace with: 01144 (USA); 0044 (mainland Europe and Eire); 001144 (Australasia).

DC THOMSON, Albert Square, Dundee DD1 9QJ (humour and adventure comics, pocket books and annuals)

EGMONT MAGAZINES LTD, 25-31 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SU (humour, licensed and pre-school titles) 020 7344 6400

HAMLYN BOOKS, 2-4 Heron Quays, London E14 4JB (2000 AD graphic novels) 020 7531 8584

I FEEL GOOD LTD, 9 Dollington Street, London EC1V 0BQ (Viz) 020 7687 7000

JOHN BROWN PUBLISHING, The Boathouse, Crabtree Lane, Fulham, London SW6 (albums) 020 7381 6007

KNOCKABOUT COMICS, 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ (humour and underground comix, graphic novels) 020 8969 2945

PANINI COMICS (UK), Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TM2 5UJ (humour and adventure titles, Marvel licensed) 01892 500 100

REBELLION DEVELOPMENTS LTD, The Studio, Brewer Street, Oxford OX11QN (Judge Dredd Megazine and 2000 AD) 01865 792201

THE REDAN COMPANY, Canon Court East, Abbey Lawn, Shrewsbury SY2 5DE (pre-school humour and licenced titles) 01743 364433

SAVOY BOOKS, 446 Wilmslow Road, Withington, Manchester M20 3BW (adult comic magazines, books and graphic novels) 0161 833 2664

TITAN ENTERTAINMENT GROUP LTD, Titan House, 144 Southwark Street, London SE1 0UP (licensed graphic novels, books, magazines and comics) 020 7620 0200

France

The following are the country's major comics and album publishers. If phoning from the USA, the country code of 0033 becomes 011 33

ALBIN MICHEL, 22 rue Huyghens, 75014 Paris (albums) (0033) 1 42 79 10 00

CASTERMAN, 66 rue Bonaparte, 75006, Paris (albums and manga) (0033) 1 40 51 28 00

DARGAUD, 6 rue Gager Gabillot, 75015 Paris (albums and manga) (0033) 1 40 45 35 39

DELCOURT, 5 passage du Mont-Cenis, 75018 Paris (albums and comics) (0033) 1 53 41 86 10

FLUIDE GLACIAL, 33 avenue du Main, BP 187, 75755 Paris (comics and albums) (0033) 1 43 20 23 96

GLENAT, 31 rue Ernest Renan, 92130 Issy les Moulineaux (albums and manga) (0033) 1 41 46 11 11

J'AI LU, 84 rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris (licenced Japanese manga) (0033) 1 44 39 34 70

LES HUMANOIDES ASSOCIES, 24 avenue Philippe Auguste, 75011 Paris (albums)(0033) 1 44 93 88 33

MARVEL, BP 62, 06702 St Laurent Duvar (0033) 1 92 12 57 57

SEMIC FRANCE, 45 rue Broca, 75005 Paris (licenced comics and albums) (0033) 1 43 36 32 00

Italy

The following are the country's major comics and album publishers. If phoning from the USA, the country code of 0039 becomes 011 39

SERGIO BONELLI EDITORE, via Buonarroti 38, 20145 Milano (black and white comics) (0039) 02 96480403

MARVEL ITALIA, viale Emilio Po' 380, 41100 Modena (Marvel licensed titles)

CULT COMICS, viale Emilio Po' 380, 41100 Modena (Image and Dark Horse licensed)

MAGIC PRESS, Zona industriale via Ragusa 18, 00040 Pavona, Roma (Vertigo and WildStorm licensed) fax: (0039) 06 93020361

STAR COMICS, strada Selvette 1bis/1 Bosco (PG) (comics and black and white manga)

ASTORINA S.R.I., via Boccaccio 32, 20123 Milano (Diabolik original and reprint black and white)

KING COMICS, via Pinerolo 3, 00182 Roma (comics)

Spain

The following are the country's comics and album publishers. If phoning from the USA, the country code of 0034 becomes 011 34

NORMA EDITORAL, Fluvià 89, 08019 Barcelona (licensed DC and Dark Horse comics and albums) 0034 93 303 68 20

EDITORIAL PLANETA-DE AGOSTINI, SA, Aribau 185, 08021 Barcelona (licensed Dark Horse comics and albums)

TOUTAIN EDITOR, SA, Diagonal 325, E-08009 Barcelona (licensed Marvel, Dark Horse, Chaos!, Image and manga comics and albums) 0034 93 344 06 00

EDICIONES LA CÚPULA, Plaza de las Beatas 3, E-08003 Barcelona (adult comics and albums) 0034 32 682 8 05

Mail Order Specialists

Key to abbreviations used:

w/s	= wholesale available	CoBRA	= Comic Book Retailers' mail order protection scheme
dis	= bulk discount terms	cc	= major credit cards accepted
cat	= phone/write for catalogue	sae	= send stamped, addressed envelope with enquiry
s-cat	= sae for catalogue		
wants	= wants lists accepted		
s-wants	= sae with wants lists		

When telephoning from outside the UK, drop the first 0 and replace with: 01144 (USA); 0044 (mainland Europe & Eire); 001144 (Australasia).

Golden Age

Generally acknowledged as being published between 1938 and 1945, the first age of superhero comics, but herein designated to cover all pre-Silver Age American comics.

Comic Biz, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 020 8446 3464

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

Mighty World of Comicana, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 020 7836 5630

Quality Comics, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ (CoBRA, cc)

Silver Acre Comics, PO Box 114, Chester CH4 8WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244 680 048 (fax: 680686)

Silver Age

*Accepted as starting in 1955 with DC's superhero rebirth through **Detective Comics** #225 (intro-ducing the Martian Manhunter) and **Showcase** #4 (introducing the Barry Allen Flash). Herein covering titles up to late 1960s.*

Comic Biz, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 020 8446 3464

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

East Coast Comics UK, 28 Acton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 7LG (high grade, s-want, cc, sae) 01502 578385 (day) 560727 (eve)

Mighty World of Comicana, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 020 7836 5630

Quality Comics, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ (CoBRA, cc)

Quicksilver Comics, PO Box 73, Ossett WF5 0YQ (s-cat, dis, wants, cc, CoBRA) 01924 270500 (fax: 270919)

Silver Acre Comics, PO Box 114, Chester CH4 8WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244 680 048 (fax 680686)

Post-Silver Age

Comics from 1970 to date: From Bronze Age-Marvel Age-Lead Age up to Platinum Age-Gimmick Age-Image Age. Historians will doubtless eventually decide on a name.

Mighty World of Comicana, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 020 7836 5630

Planet Warehouse (FPI) *formerly Comics Warehouse* PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 877244

Quality Comics, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ (CoBRA, cc)

Tarpaulin Books and Comics, 5 Oak Close, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 3EZ (wants, s-cat) 01842 820139

Hot Comics

Current or key titles, first issues or first appearances of major characters. Investment titles for speculators willing to gamble.

A Place in Space, 101 Church Street, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RN (wants, cc, dis) 020 8686 2400

Comix-shop. co.uk, 7a High Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1JN (wants, cat, cc) 01628 777998

Advance Imports

US comics are not generally available in UK newsagents, except for some sea-freight shipped low-cover price DCs and Marvels, and can only be found through specialists in the rest of the world. The following companies offer air-shipped copies from all of the major US publishers.

Ace Comics, 63/64 High Street, Colchester, Essex (wants, cat, CoBRA, cc) 01206 561912

Avalon Comics, 143 Lavender Hill, London SW11 5QJ (cc, CoBRA) 020 7924 3609

Comix-shop.co.uk, 7a High Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1JN (wants, cat, cc) 01628 777998

86th Floor Comics & Cards, 6 Shipley Common Lane, Ilkeston, Derbyshire DE7 8TR (dis, cat, cc) 0115 9443009

Forbidden Planet, 71 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DG (s-cat cc) 020 7497 2150

Gosh! Strips by Mail, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH 020 7636 1011

Planet Warehouse (FPI) *formerly Comics Warehouse,* PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 877244

Red Hot Comics, The Warehouse Block D Unit 8, Glenwood Business Park, Glenwood Place, Glasgow G45 9UH (CoBRA, w/s, dis, wants, cc) tel/fax: 0141 630 0049

Limited Editions

Many high-profile miniseries and one-shots are also available in limited, numbered and often autographed editions (s&n). New titles, to acquire copyright, can also appear in small print-run "ashcan" editions (ash).

Comic Biz, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (CoBRA, cc, ash, s&n, cat) 020 8446 3464

Trading Cards

Several mail order dealers carry a range of non-sports cards and related peripherals (files, folders, sleeves).

Beyond Comics, 76 Harlescott Road, Nunhead, London SE15 3BZ (s-cat, s-wants, sae, CoBRA) tel/fax: 020 7564 4213

John McDonald: Non-Sport Trading Cards, 20 Alder Grove, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire ML5 3PT (cat, wants) tel/fax: 01236 433358

Old British Titles

The popularity of old British comics continues to increase as more dealers expand into this area. The following specialise in such titles.

The Book Palace, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP 020 8768 0022

Comic Biz, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 020 8446 3464

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

Weird Fantasy, 19 Decoy Road, Ormesby, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR29 3LG (s-cat, s-wants, annuals specialist)

Merchandise

Comics, film and TV-related t-shirts, posters, video games, badges, toys, action figures, etc.

Off World: The Sci-Fi Store, 142 Market Halls, Arndale Centre, Luton, Beds LU1 2TP. (specialists in Star Trek, Star Wars and sci-fi collectables) 01582 736256

Sci-Fi Merchandise Direct (FPI) and **Gear for Games (FPI)** Maldon, Essex CM9 4XD (cat) 01621 877222

Original Art

With artists having their originals returned by publishers, an increasing number of pages are now being made available for collectors.

The Book Palace, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP 020 8768 0022

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

Silver Acre Comics, PO Box 114, Chester CH4 8WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244 680 048 (fax: 680686)

Peripherals

Acid-free protection for comics. Backing boards, protective bags, storage boxes, etc.

The Book Palace, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP 020 8768 0022

Just Comics, 65 Station Road, Warboys, Huntingdon, Cambs PE28 2TH (w/s only, CollectorLine™ distributor) 01487 824895 01487 824896

Planet Warehouse (FPI) *formerly Comics Warehouse,* PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 877244

General Fantasy

As well as comics old and new, some suppliers also provide catalogues of multi-media fantasy, covering TV, film, trading cards and toys.

Forbidden Planet Mail Order, 144 Southwark Street, London SE1 0UP (cat) 020 7803 1900 (fax: 7803 1901)

Sci-Fi Merchandise Direct (FPI) and **Gear for Games (FPI)** Maldon, Essex CM9 4XD (cat) 01621 877222

Manga Titles

English language translations of Japanese comics and US titles drawn in the Japanese style.

United Publications, 85 Croydon Road, Keston, Kent BR2 8HU (ind, back, cat, wants, cc) 020 8325 9507

Alternative & Biographical

The following carry an extensive range of biographical and slice-of-life comicbooks and graphic novels (Fantagraphics, Maus, Crumb, Pekar...)

Gosh! Strips by Mail, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH (wants) 020 7636 1011

Knockabout Comics, 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ (w/s, s-cat, cc) 020 8969 2945 (fax: 8968 7614)

Page 45, 9 Market Street, Nottingham NG1 6HY 0115 9508045

Comics Auctions

Accepting lots from the general public, comics auctions provide an alternative way for collectors to sell their valuable comics. The following accept items for sale, as well as providing regular catalogues for mail order bids.

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

Distributors

Anybody considering opening a comics shop or becoming a mail order dealer can obtain further information about the supply of titles from the following who bulk air import US and European comics and related items on a weekly basis.

The Book Palace, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP (graphic novels, art books, comics, remainders, film and TV, popular culture) 020 8768 0022

Diamond Comic Distributors, 2nd Floor, Warton House, 150 High Street, London E15 2NP (US and European comics, cards and related items) 020 8536 5730 (fax: 8536 5736)

Red Route Distribution, Unit 24, 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ (US & European comics/ graphic novels, back-list specialists) 020 8960 5855

NEW **Turnaround Publisher Services**, Unit 3, Olympia Trading Estate, Coburg Road, Wood Green, London N22 6TZ (graphic novels, art books, film and TV, popular culture) 020 8829 3000

Mail Order Dealers:

CI's Mail Order Index is the industry's most cost-effective and highly-targeted way to reach a huge dedicated audience in excess of 40,000 readers every month. It costs only £4 ($6 US) per entry per issue to appear and is bookable in advance as a 6-issue series. Send pre-payment of £24/$36 (plus £4.20 VAT for UK advertisers) per category with your details to:

Comics International, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ

Cheques and international money orders should be made payable to Comics International. Alternatively, payment can be made by credit card, fax: 0(11 44) 1273 566 333 or e-mail: Listings@comicsinternational.com

The letters **(FPI)** after entries indicates that the company is part of **Forbidden Planet International Ltd**

Classified

Advertising terms and conditions

Whether for publication or not, all advertisements must be accompanied by full name, home address and daytime phone number of advertiser.

• All private classified Wants or Announcements ads (comics or card related items only) are free of charge. Maximum 50 words, they will be printed at the publisher's discretion when space permits. *(Only one advertisement can be submitted per letter/per issue so everybody gets a chance to fit in!)*

• FOR SALE ads (and dealer wants/announcements) are charged:
(i) General announcements: Stating no issue numbers, prices or titles. Per 50 words (or part thereof) ..... £5.00 ($7.50 US)
(ii) List ads: (including specific titles, issues and/or prices. Minimum charge, per 100 words (or part thereof) ..... £10.00 ($15.00 US)

Payment (to Comics International) must accompany advertising copy.

CI Classified, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ

For Sale

Half-price sale: Many thousands of Marvel, DC and indies, all at half price. For your full list send an sae to M. Cruden, 18 Backbower Lane, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 5NS, or phone 0161 366 8226. E-mail mcruden @btinternet.com, or log on to http://members.lycos.co.uk/mcruden to see full lists of comics for sale.

Huge **2000 AD** collection for sale: Over 1000 issues from Prog 1, annuals, specials, **Crisis**, **Starlords** and **Judge Dredd Megazines**. Send an sae to David Thomas, 25 Caspian Way, Dartford, Kent DA10 0LB.

The Lord of the Rings, a 40-page critical appreciation of Tolkien's masterpiece, written by Mike Cruden, with full-page illustrations by Tony Schofield. £1 including p&p from Mike Cruden, 18 Backbower Lane, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 5NS.

For sale: Bronze Age Beauties. DC: **Dark Mansions of Forbidden Love** 1 vfn £50, **Ghosts** 1vfn £40, **All-Star Western** 10fn £30, **New Gods** 1fn £10, **Kamandi** 1fn £10. Marvel: **Conan** 1 CGC 9.0 vfn-nm £200, **X-Men** 95 nm £75, **Star Wars** 1nm £40, **Tomb of Dracula** 1 fn £20, **Werewolf by Night** 1vfn+ £30, **Monster of Frankenstein** 1 £20, 2 £10, 3 £10 œ all vfn+. Sets: **Kung-Fu Fighter** 1-10vfn £22, **Tower of Shadows** 1-9vfn 1+7fn £100, **Marvel Classic Comics** 1-35nm £75, **Inhumans** 1-12nm-vfn £30, **Where Monsters Dwell** 1-8 £60vfn. Contact L. Pitt on 0117 9631009 or write to: 74 Barnstaple Rd., Knowle, Bristol BS4 1JP.

Wanted

Advertisers are reminded that Wanted ads must be no longer than 50 words (including address), and only single insertion private advertisements can be published free of charge.

Wanted in any condition: **Amazing Heroes** 99 and 181 (please offer other available issues); **Comics Journal** 46 and 73; **Comics Scene** 55. Wanted in fine condition: **Alter Ego** 7; **Comics Journal** 53; **Best of DC Digest** 31, 60, 63, 66 and 71; **Depserate Dan Book 1979**. Details of prices, etc to Michael Connolly, 103 Ballylenaghan Heights, Belfast BT8 6WJ.

Wanted: **Superman**, **Superboy** and **Batman** British annuals from the 1950s and 1960s; **Jack and Jill: All Colour Gift Book** 1953; **T.V. Comic** weeklies and holiday specials from the 1960s and 1970s. Gold Key: **Banana Splits** and **H.R. Pufnstuf**, **Bewitched**. **Archie**: 80-Page Giants only. Pin-up mags: **Kamera**, **Beautiful Brittons**, **Q.T. Spick**, etc. Any Bettie Page material. Write to John Balfour, Westerstraat 67-3, Amsterdam, Holland, 1015 LW.

I am back! Get me these trade paperbacks if you want to live: **Silver Surfer: Return of Thanos**, **Onslaught Book 1**, **Iron Man vs Dr Doom**, **Fantastic Four: Heroes Return**. Please contact the once and future Steve Overton, 54 Birling Avenue, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent ME14 4LN. Tel: 01622 739082 or e-mail teveoverton@aol.com. Hasta la vista!

Announcements

Fanzine and small press titles must not be offered for sale before being printed. To verify publication, a sample copy must be sent in along with the advertising copy (50 words max). Single bookings only, so everybody gets a chance!

Zip Gun Presents: Chimera. One-shot anthology about hybrids and composite creatures. A5, 32 black and white pages, colour cover. Only £2.50, (including p&p). Cheques payable to David Goodman, from Zip Gun, 34 Banner Street, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 0HQ. Other Zip Gun titles available. Check website for submission guidelines (www.bahala-na.co.uk/zipgun/).

Free adult humour comic! For your free copy of **Muck** 2, just send a first class A5 sae to Zensieren Publications (fm), BCM Box 1328, London WC1N 3XX.

A wandering cat discovers its purpose in life is to protect a fallen meteor from a black hole in **Existential Cat** 1. Mock 18th century poetic narrative is further proof that this creator did no market research. 32 pages. £1 (including p&p) from Chris, 51 Moss Street, York YO23 1BR.

The Comics Advertiser, with all the latest small press comics and an article by Rik Hoskin, is free! Available now from all good comics retailers, or for an A4 sae from CAOF Comics, 10 Cleveland Avenue, High Ercall, Telford, Shropshire TF6 6AH. Go demand your free copy now!

Attention, small press creators! Listen up, comics fans! Britain's breeziest booze-up is coming! The second Saturday of each month at The London Pub near The Bedford Hotel, Bedford Way*, London (*nearest tube station: Russell Square). From 2pm onwards. For details, please contact Lee Davis on 07951 912721. (* Hey! The spirit of UKCAC lives on!)

Bionic Benny and His Bounding Bubos 1! To celebrate five years of lawsuit-free comics, Bionic Comics is re-releasing its epic-ish **Bionic Benny** 1. Be the first to jump on the second bandwagon! Send two first class stamps to Peter, 94 Tippett Rise, Reading RG2 0DZ. E-mail: bioniccomics @hotmail.com.

UK Planet of the Apes fanzine, **Simian Scrolls** 7 now out! With features on the Planet of the Apes animated series, an interview with Austin Stoker and an exclusive look at Ape modelling. Available from John Roche, Mediation House, 18 Meyrick Street, Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire, Wales SA72 6UT at £2 (including postage and packing). E-mail: mail@mediationhouse.com

Lazy Robots. Trundle, Toggle and Tweeter are three robots who live on the grim factory world of the Metal Moon. When Trundle is hurt in an accident, it's time to take a break. Where else but the beautiful planet of Beach Ball, with its tropical seaside sun? But the villainous Springer has escaped Springer has escaped justice, and is hiding from the Coast Cops. When Trubdle is mistaken for Springer there's trouble on his tail. Fun science fiction for children (and adults!) by Peter Poole. Sample and buy from www.nospine.com.

Warren Fanzine: **Spooky**. A new 12-page fanzine, featuring Creepy, Eerie, Vampirella and more! £1.25 including UK postage. Piers Casimir, 14 Burton Close, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8LU. E-Mail: piers @spookyfanzine.com

Calling London-based comics artists. Interested in sharing studio space? With a group of four to five, expect reasonable rates œ around £120 per month each. Contact Roger Mason on 020 7608 3638 or e-mail rogermaso.n @virgin.net.

We've gone summer crazy at North London Comics! Send your name and address, and get free issues of **Mondo** in return! Yes, free œ while stocks last! Babes, retro fun, British superheroes, sci-fi action and a top letters page! Cor! Contact Lee Davis, 140 Amersham Avenue, Edmonton, London N18 1DY. **Mondo** œ try it!

Comic Societies

Join The Eagle Society, dedicated to the memory of Britain's National Strip Cartoon Weekly œ The Eagle 1950-1969. For just £17 per year (cheques should be made payable to The Eagle Society) members receive our quarterly journal **Eagle Times**, as well as the chance to attend social gatherings and meet original Eagle contributors. Write to the membership secretary: Keith Howard, 25a Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2UA. Or e-mail: Richard.Sheaf @uk.nestle.com

Comics Creators Guild: The Future of Comics in our Hands. Industry veterans and aspiring professionals: Join the largest comics organisation in Europe. Monthly meetings, newsletter, **Comics Forum** magazine, exclusive publications, free legal advice, special discounts and more. For further information please contact: Comics Creators Guild, 22 St James Mansions, West End Lane, West Hampstead, London NW6 2AA. Or check out our website: www.comicscreators.org.uk

BUY OR SELL OR EVEN TRADE

It's been tried and tested for over 10 years and it's still going strong...

Comics International's *Classified* section has turned more than one £5 "For Sale" advertiser into a big-time full page dealer.

One of the first-read sections of the magazine for both dealers and fans, *Classified* offers you the opportunity to add a part time job to boost your finances.

Most comic fans have unwanted titles taking up valuable space...

... A loft which is in need of clearing.

... A spare room which is no longer spare.

... A garage which is pining for a car.

Classified can help you not only clear that space, but earn you money while doing so. More than 4,500 such ads have been placed on this page, with regular dealers coming back each issue.

It costs only £5 to place a 50-word For Sale general announcement. Or £10 for a 100-word list ad, detailing issues and prices. Ads can appear within a week of you sending them...

So, what are you waiting for? Everybody else to jump in first?

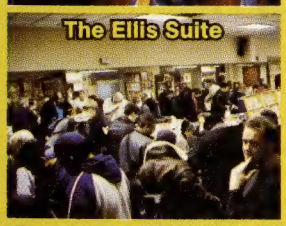
... It's down to you!

Comic & Card Events

THE NATIONAL COLLECTORS MARKETPLACE™

ROYAL NATIONAL HOTEL
BEDFORD WAY
LONDON WC1

The National Gallery



ADMISSION FREE

2003
SUNDAY OCTOBER 5

DOORS OPEN 12 NOON

2000 AD
ACTION FIGURES
ANIME
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BEANIE BABIES
BRITISH COMICS
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ORIGINAL ARTWORK
POSTERS
SILVER AGE COMICS
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SCI FI/FANTASY
STAR TREK
STAR WARS
TOYS
TRADING CARD SUPPLIES
VIDEOS
X-FILES

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HOW TO GET THERE. BUS: 68, 91, 168 or 188 to Woburn Place. UNDERGROUND: Piccadilly Line to Russell Square. BRITISH RAIL: Euston and Kings Cross are within walking distance of the venue.

FUTURE DATE: 26TH OCTOBER 2003

DEALERS: CALL 020 747 66 873 FOR TABLE AVAILABILITY

www.comicmart.co.uk

Events

A summary of all the events advertised this issue

October

4/10 Nottingham: Comic Mart & Card Show, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gedling Street, Nottingham ..... (p48)

5/10 London: The National Comicbook Marketplace and Card Mart, The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way ..... (p58)

11/10 Sheffield: Comic Mart & Card Show, Main Hall, Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street ..... (p48)

25/10 Newcastle: Comic Mart & Card Show, University of Northumbria, Students' Union Ballroom, Sandyford Road ..... (p48)

26/10 London: The National Comicbook Marketplace and Card Mart, The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way ..... (p58)

November

1/11 Leeds: Comic Mart & Card Show, Leeds Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way, Leeds ..... (p48)

8/11 Glasgow: Scottish Comics, Card & Collectables Fair, James Moir Hall (Mitchell Theatre) Granville Street ..... (p22)

15/11 Birmingham: Comic Mart & Card Show, Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham ..... (p48)

22/11 Manchester: Comic Mart & Card Show, Sachas Hotel, Tib Street, Piccadilly, Manchester ..... (p48)

23/11 Liverpool: Comic Mart & Card Show, Gladstone Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool ..... (p48)

29-30/11 Birmingham: Memorabilia '03, Birmingham NEC ..... (p45)

December

6/12 Leeds: Comic Mart & Card Show, Leeds Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way, Leeds ..... (p48)

13/12 Newcastle: Comic Mart & Card Show, University of Northumbria, Students' Union Ballroom, Sandyford Road ..... (p48)

13/12 Nottingham: Comic Mart & Card Show, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gedling Street, Nottingham ..... (p48)

January

11/1 London: Card Mart, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street ..... (p58)

Please note: the above listing of UK comics, trading card and related events is free to Comics International display advertisers only.

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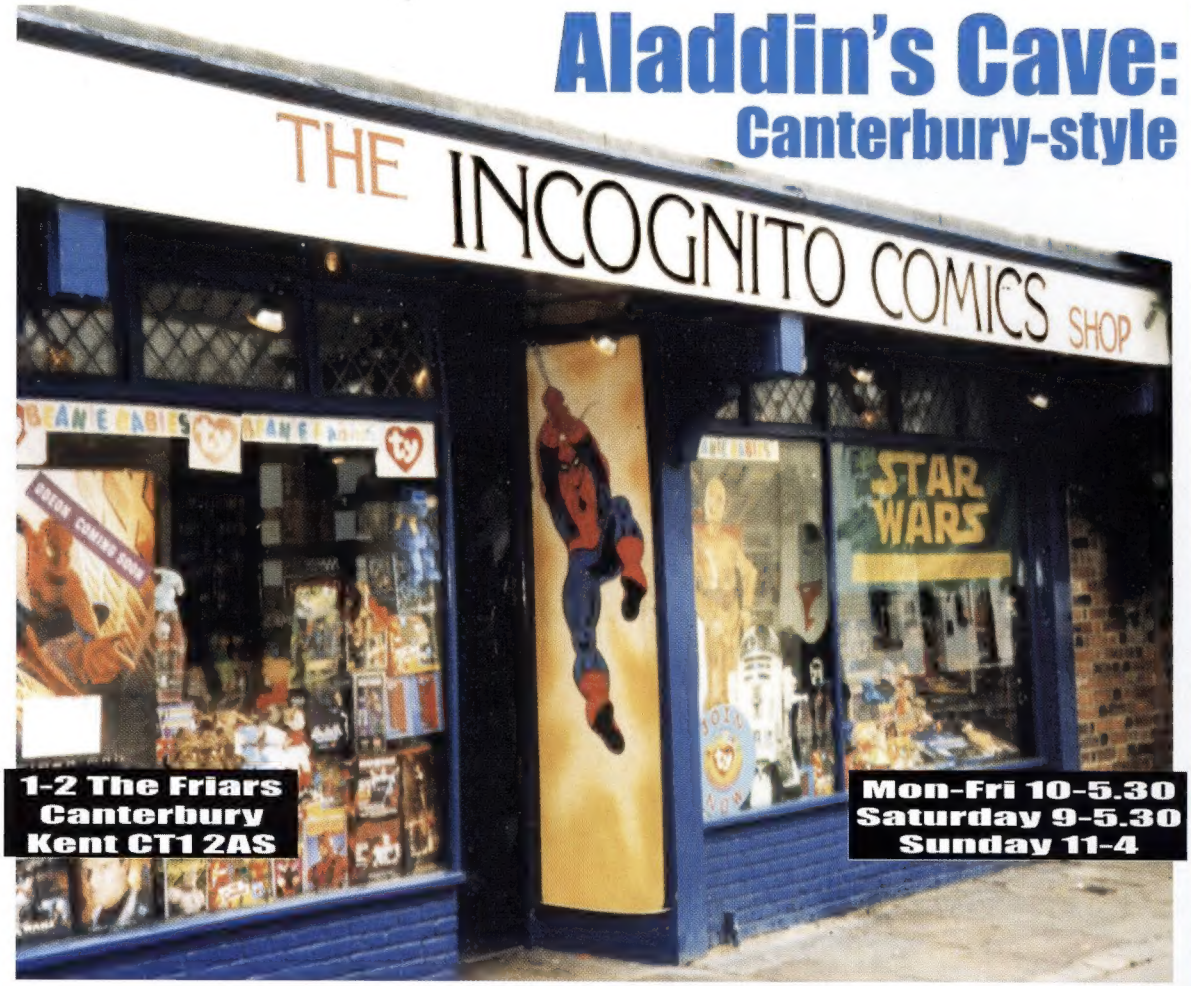
ON THE NET? THEN CHECK OUR WEBSITE INDEX WITH EVENT ORGANISER WEB ADDRESSES. SEE PAGE 55

Aladdin's Cave:
Canterbury-style



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